

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

FIRST DEFINITIVE ISSUE
1961 – 1974

THE ½ CENT KINGFISHER STAMPS

The ½ cent Kingfisher Stamp (the African Pygmy Kingfisher - *Ispidina picta*) was issued on 31 May 1961 together with stamps of the value of 1 c, 1½ c, 2 c, 2 ½ c, 3 c, 5 c, 7½ c, 10 c, 12½ c, 20 c, 50 c and 1 Rand.

The ½ c, 1½ c, 2½ c, 5 c and 20 c stamps have the Coat of Arms watermark sideways and the ½ c and 1½ c values have a perf of approximately 15 x 14.

In 1963/64, the 1961 set of stamps were issued again, this time on chalky paper, but with designs redrawn and a new 15 c value. The ½ c and 2 ½ c values have the R.S.A watermark sideways with the perf at approximately 15 x 14.

In the period 1967 to 1971, some of the designs were redrawn and printed on Swiss or Harrison paper with the R.S.A watermark tête-bêche. The stamps have fluorescence on the front.

In 1968, the ½ c and 1 c stamps were redesigned with the with the R.S.A watermark tête-bêche sideways on the ½ c value. The perf is 14 x 13½.

In 1969 to 1972, new values were added and phosphor bands of 3 or 5 mm were printed onto the stamps. The R.S.A watermark tête-bêche sideways on the ½ c value.

ISSUE 1 - MAY 1961

The stamps in this small format group exhibit fine cross-line screening, are perforated



291Ca

15x14 gauge and conform to a sheet format of 200 units.



Ca1

HB 201

Three cylinders were used for this tri-coloured printing on Arms wmk. paper, the cylinder numbers being positioned on the sheets left margin, the cylinder number '34' being superimposed on number '9'.



6 5 7 7 2

Ce

CB H8201

The first distribution was without sheet serial numbers, while subsequent ones bore five figure black numerals in different positions on the sheets bottom margin.

Corner blocks from different sheets



The sheet's left and right margins are perforated through and carry carmine-red single line broken bars.



The sheet's top and bottom margin's have centrally imprinted on them



Cc



Cc

a carmine-red premanufactured type of arrow.



The sheet's left and right margins are perforated through and carry every carmine-red single line broken bars, containing a central gap, the top and bottom imperforate.



201 Cc

Sheet no's. - 3 and 4.

The sheet bears five figure black numerals in different positions on the sheet's bottom margin, e.g.,



201 C 5

Under stamps 16 and 17.



C 5

17 and 18.



C 5

6 and 7.

And some more under



C6

14 and 15.



C6

stamp no. 18.



C6

and under stamp 7.

Sheet serial numbers in different positions.



Stamp No. 7.

C6



Stamp No. 18.

C6



16 and 17.

C6

VARIETIES

Small blue dot below tip of bird's beak. 5/14.



V4

V5

Small blue dot before bird. 5/15.



V12

Freak serial number



V3

Small blue dot below bird's beak - 3/17.



V2

Short inclined blue line above UB of REPUBLIC 2/8.



V6

Small blue dot below K of KINGFISHER 7/11.



V8

Red line in front of OF - 5/19. White blob in the blue colouring on the bird's back. 6/20.



V6

Two horizontal lines across rows 19 and 20. Small blue dot to right of IN of KINGFISHER. 10/11.

ISSUE 2

MAR, 1963

Brown horizontal mark on bar,

The sheets have blue single line broken bars along the left and right hand margins. Printing was done on the Goebels 340 machine.



Red dot 3/2.

Watermarked paper: C of A, facing right. Perforation 14:14. Type II. - heavy branches. Unsurfaced paper.

(Issue 3 - Coil stamp).

- Civil Stamps -

ISSUE 3
MAY 1963



Type II - Heavy branches.

ISSUE 5 - 18 JUNE 1965

RSA wmk. Redrawn design

Fluorescent front and back.

Surfaced paper.

3/60



Ca

The left and right margins carry blue single broken bars - the right margin showing the blue "Ghost" background.



Only the marginal punched out hole on the bottom margin of pane A has concentric rings around it, and they are blue instead of brown.



Bottom arrow with inclined whitish line across left prong. Printers register mark with red continuous line, while brown and blue ones are broken. Neither pane has sheet numbers.



Sheet numbers appeared again later on approximately 2000 sheets, out of a total of 72000 sheets printed.

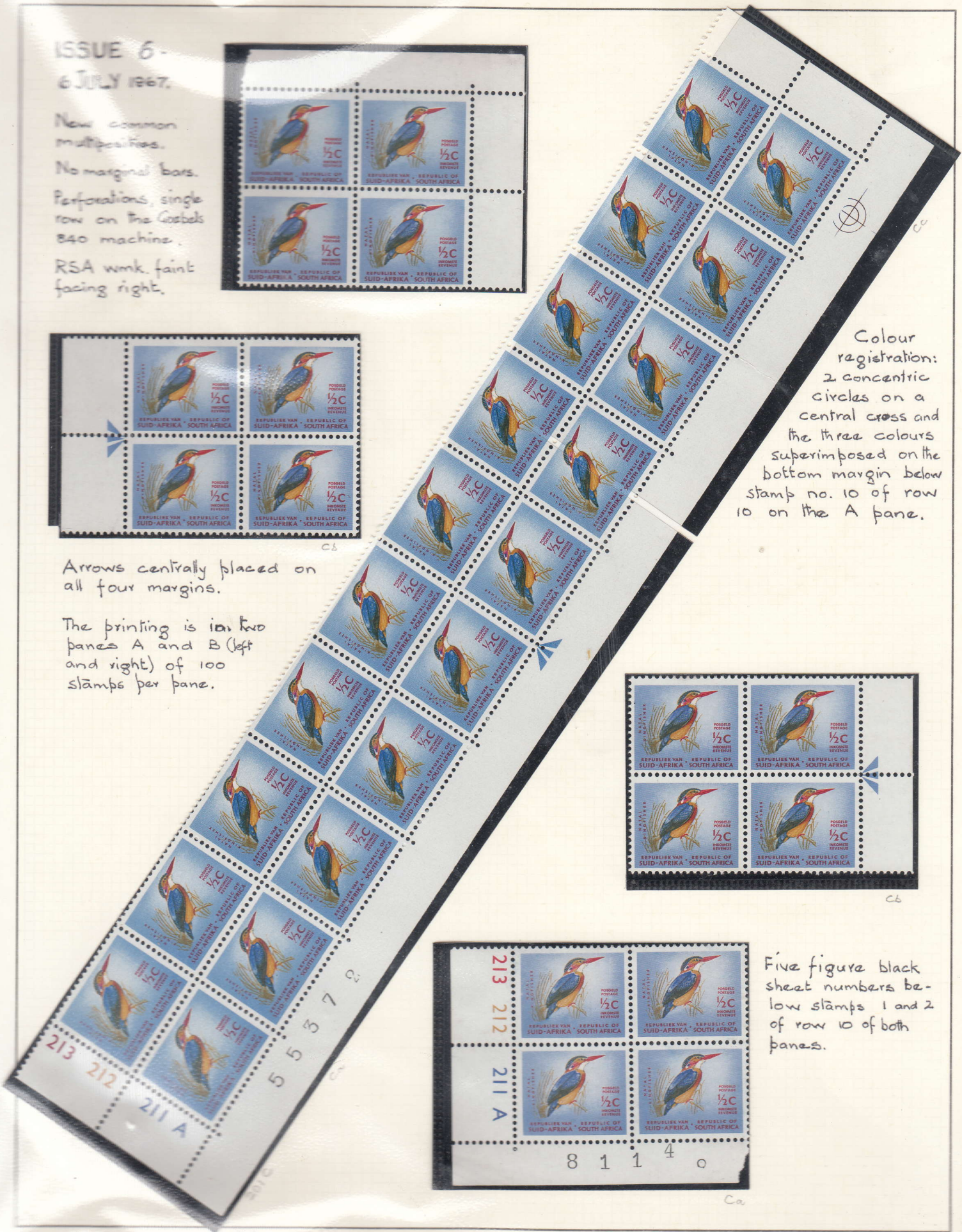
ISSUE 6 -
6 JULY 1967.

New common
multipositions.
No marginal bars.
Perforations, single
row on the Gostels
B40 machine.
RSA wmk. faint
facing right.



Arrows centrally placed on
all four margins.

The printing is in two
panes A and B (left
and right) of 100
stamps per pane.



Colour
registration:
2 concentric
circles on a
central cross and
the three colours
superimposed on the
bottom margin below
stamp no. 10 of row
10 on the A pane.



Five figure black
sheet numbers be-
low stamps 1 and 2
of row 10 of both
panes.

ISSUE 6 - PANE 'B'

Miniature Sheet.



Ca

Ca

8 2 5 3 0

Y13 - 10/1

201C

ISSUE 7

JANUARY 1968

A second distribution of this issue appeared on Swiss coated RSA watermarked paper, in têche-bêche formation facing left and right. No alteration in printing data. Perforation 14 x 15.



Redrawn design. Surfaced paper. Fluorescent front only.
Type I sheet numbers.



Same as above but Type II sheet numbers

ISSUE 7A
SEPTEMBER 1968

The third distribution showed a marked change in printing data, which was an emergency printing. Same cylinders, same Swiss paper but a new cyclometer was used.



The new numbers have a new type of digit, thinner and clearer. Perforation 14x14. The left margin of Pane A is much wider and is imperforate.

ISSUE 8 - PANES C, D, A, B.



Wide left margin.



Narrow left margin.

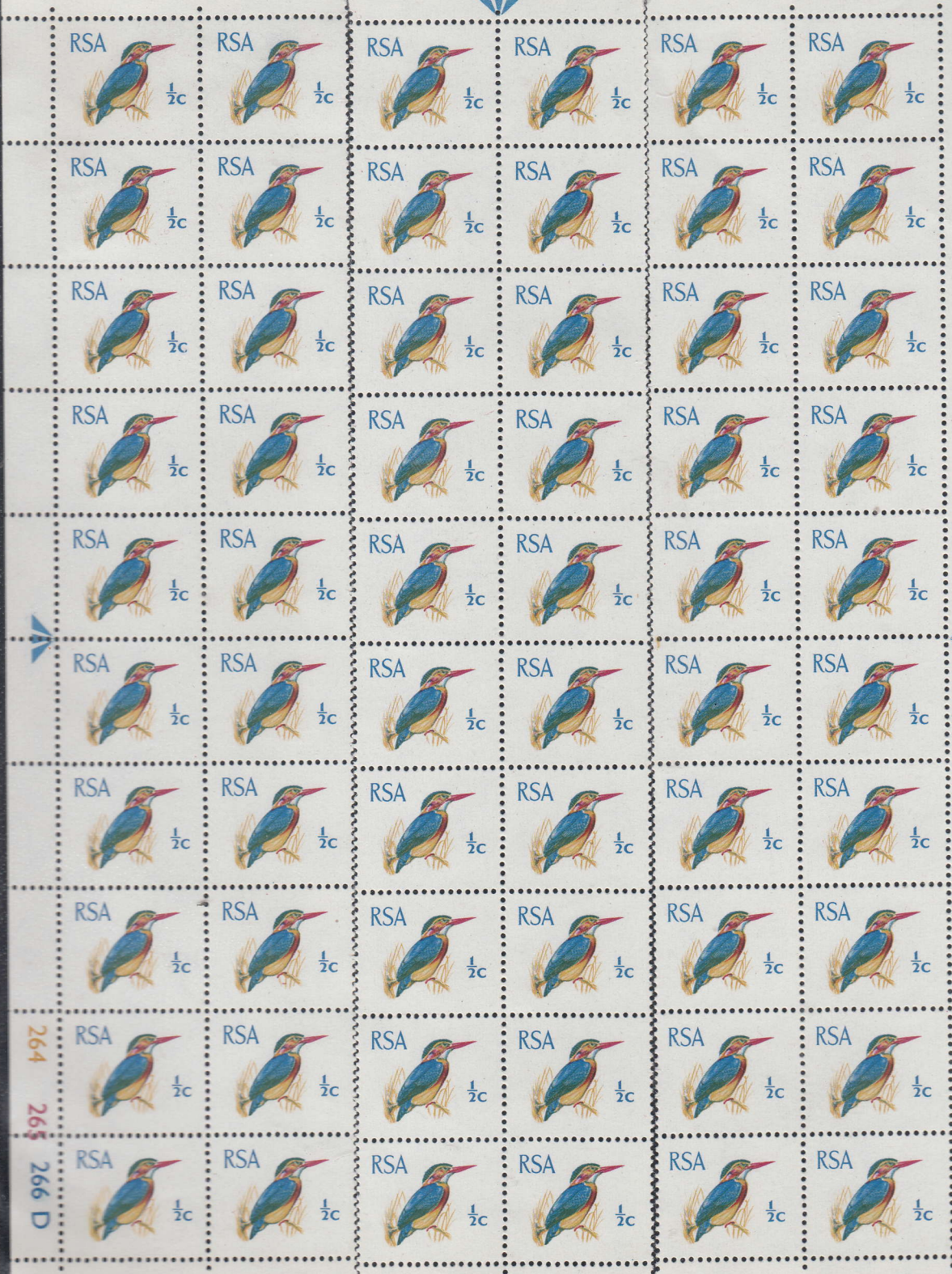


New type II sheet numbers on pane D and B.



Showing quillotine register lines - Not showing lines.

ISSUE 8 - PANE D.
MINIATURE SHEET.



264
265
266 D

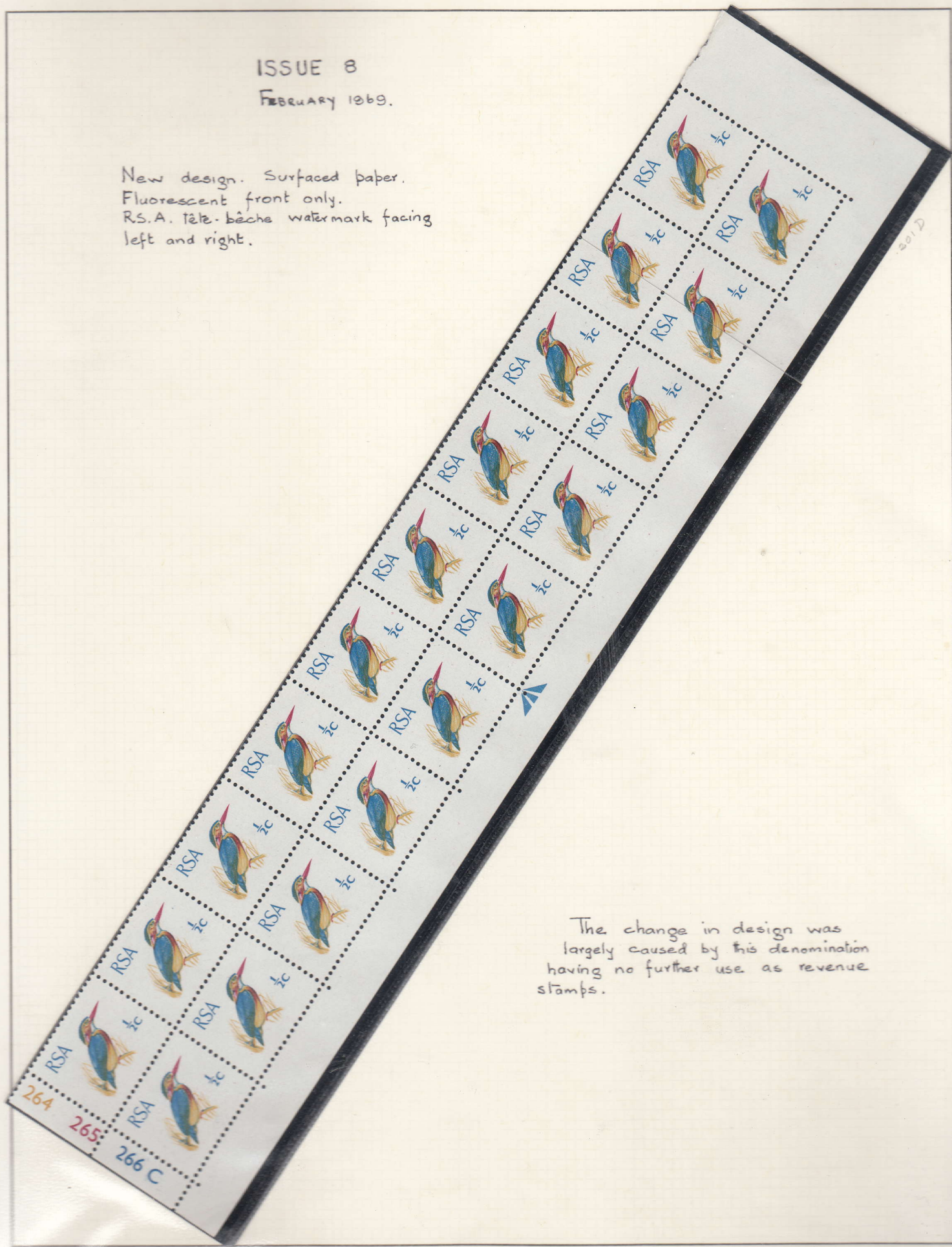
8 4 1 5 7

201 D

ISSUE 8

FEBRUARY 1969.

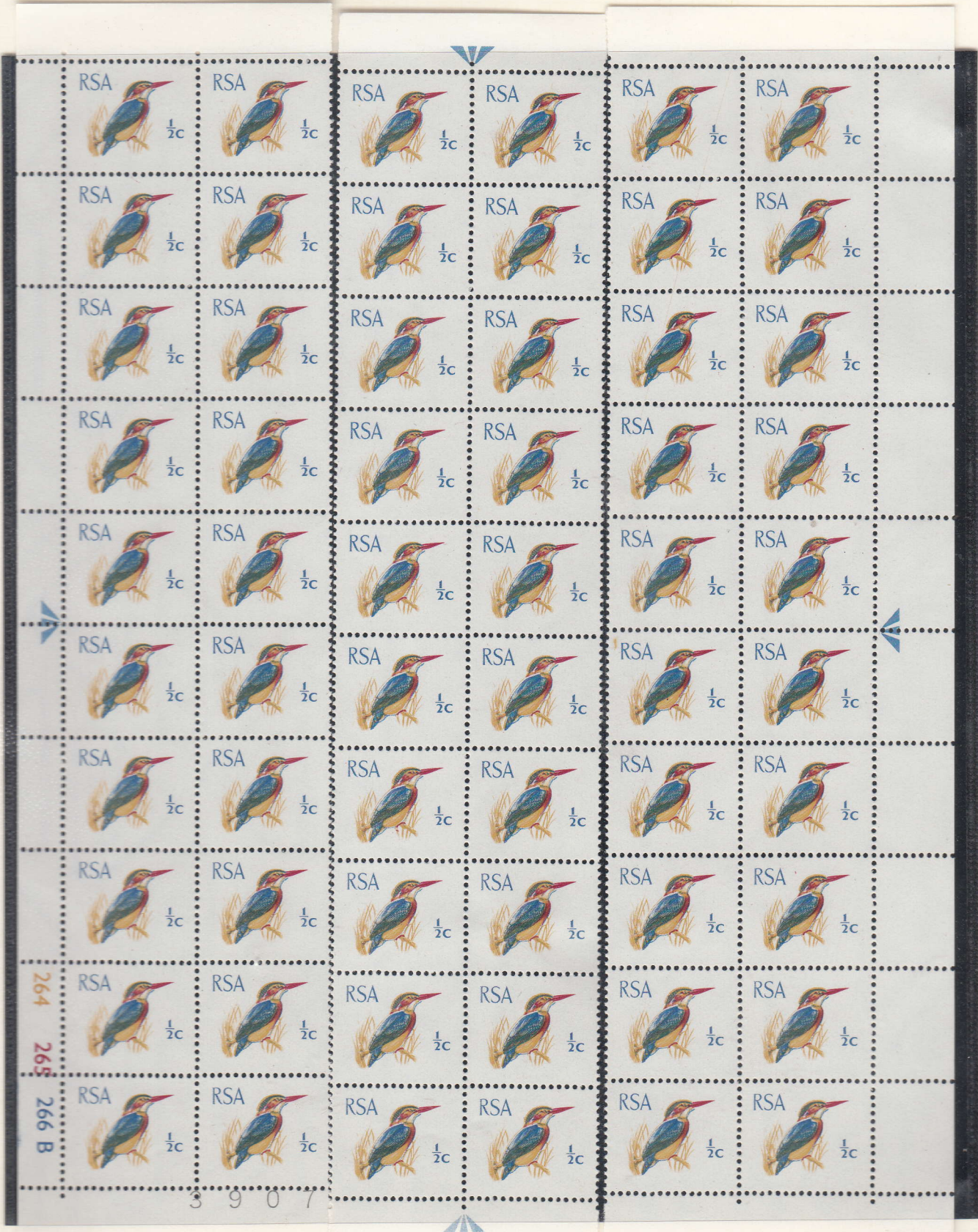
New design. Surfaced paper.
Fluorescent front only.
R.S.A. tête-bêche watermark facing
left and right.



The change in design was
largely caused by this denomination
having no further use as revenue
stamps.

ISSUE 8 - PANE B
MINIATURE SHEET.

54



264
265
266 B

3 9 0 7

Coil Stamps

ISSUE 9

MAY 1969



ISSUE 10
21 JANUARY 1970.



201 D

No changes from issue 8, except that a new cylinder was added which printed printed phosphor bands 5mm wide between the stamps.



Swiss RSA télé-bêche wmk.. Surfaced paper. Fluorescent front only.



ISSUE 11 - TYPE 1
MAY 1971



Phosphor tagging 3mm.

RSA wmk. T.B facing right
and left.



ISSUE 11
MAY 1970



201D

Harrison RSA T.B. Watermark. Surfaced paper. Fluorescent front and back.



Phosphor tagging 5mm.



Coil Stamps

ISSUE 12

JULY 1970

5mm Tagging



February 1971



3mm Tagging



ISSUE 13 - JULY 1973



No watermark
New blue/scarlet/buff.

