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"WATERMARK REVERSED" - SOME NOTES

by Colin Hamilton.

Diligent students of the C. P. Catalogue (or of the lists of watermark varieties in Volumes 2 and 4 of "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand") will have noticed that the variety "watermark reversed" crops up quite frequently in New Zealand stamp issues, from the Full-Face Queen 'NZ' watermark issues of 1864 through to the Queen Elizabeth 4d Official of 1954. Indeed it is possible that the list may extend to include some of the stamps on Large Star watermark paper prior to 1864. Since this particular watermark device is symmetrical, it would be difficult to differentiate the "normal" from the "reversed".

Many collectors will have at least one example of reversed watermark in their collections, for some are not so very uncommon, e. g. the K. G. V $\frac{1}{2}$ d Green (K13g) or 2d Yellow (K18f) or the 1936 Pictorial 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d (L3c). Nevertheless, for those who do not, it may be as well to explain what exactly is meant by the expression "Watermark Reversed", since in my experience there are some who still tend to equate 'watermark reversed' with 'watermark inverted'.

In their normal form, the watermarks of New Zealand stamp papers, when viewed from the back, or unprinted, side, appear "wrong-reading". That is to say, they read as if seen in a mirror. This is true whether the watermark is upright, inverted, sideways or sideways-inverted when related to the design of the particular stamp in question.

As from 5th February 1973, our Woking address has been allocated the postcode GU22 7BL. All correspondence to our Woking office on and after that date should be addressed to:

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In the case of reversed watermarks, these appear "right-reading", again when viewed from the unprinted side of the paper. In other words, the 'NZ' of the NZ and Star watermark device reads as printed in this sentence. This, too, applies whether the particular watermark happens to be upright, inverted, sideways or sideways-inverted in relation to the design of the stamp.

It might be a natural, and excusable, deduction that one reversed watermark has pretty much the same origin as another. This is not necessarily so, and in fact there are a number of completely different root causes of the variety. These can be divided into four main categories:

- (1) Deliberately produced, usually for experimental printing purposes, for example the K. G. V 1d Field Marshal (K15c).
- (2) Produced in error, at the pre-printing stage, that is before the paper reaches the printer. I will return to this later.

- (3) Produced in error, at the printing stage. An example of this is the Q. E. 4d Official printed on the gummed side.
- (4) Fortuitously produced. Occurring at random in cases where no importance was apparently attached to which side of the paper received the surfacing or, in unsurfaced papers, which side was gummed. Examples are the "Basted Mills" 1d Universal, and many of the perf. 11 and perf. 14 First Pictorials.

(Although it has been suggested that these haphazardly produced varieties occurred as a result of the indifference of the printer, I incline to the view that the printer's decision was in effect already made for him, in that he had to print on the ungummed side. Otherwise it would be difficult to explain why, in the 1d Universal, for instance, randomly positioned watermarks occur frequently only on Basted Mills paper.)

Returning to (2) above, this category can be further sub-divided as follows:

- (a) Paper surfaced on the wrong side, subsequently gummed on the unsurfaced side, and subsequently printed on the surfaced side, e. g. K. G. V ½d and 2d.
- (b) Paper surfaced on the right side, but subsequently gummed on the surfaced side, and subsequently printed on the ungummed (and unsurfaced) side. This is an extremely rare occurrence, but a single copy has been recorded of the 1d Dominion on De La Rue paper with this rather complicated variety (Dr K. J. McNaught, in "The New Zealand Stamp Collector" Feb. 1969).

Summing up, then, any stamp which proves to have the watermark reversed is always worth a second look (or a third, or a fourth!), just in case it is not what it seems at first sight to be.

FOOTNOTE by Campbell Paterson

Colin Hamilton raises a nice point in his querying the statement in the Catalogue that "the haphazardly produced watermark varieties" (the reference was to the numerous inverted, reversed, and inverted-reversed varieties of 1901 to 1907) "were the result of the indifference of the printer" - Colin's suggestion is in fact that if the gum was already on the sheets before printing this would force the printer to print on the ungummed side of the paper.

However, except in some cases such as the "London" 1898 Pictorials and the "London" 1d Universal (which appear obviously to have been printed on pre-gummed paper) the stamps referred to, namely the locally printed watermarked issues of 1901 to 1907, were on the evidence available almost certainly printed on paper which was ungummed at the printing stage. This I repeat is "on the evidence available" - that evidence being the rather crude appearance of the gum. It looks as if it had been brushed on and in almost all cases does not extend to the extreme edge of the selvage. Brush marks are also sometimes seen. Now there is no proof that the brushing on of gum was not done before printing but since with line-engraved printing it is a lot easier to get a good result with paper slightly damp, it is allowable, I suggest, to accept as probable that the gumming was done after, not before, the printing. So in the group I have specified, I think I must support the suggestion that the indifference of the printer was the main cause of haphazard use of the paper, resulting in many variations of watermark, rather than, as Colin suggests, the printer being forced to print as he did through the indifference of "the fellow with the gum brush". The evidence is wholly circumstantial, so one can only speak of probabilities, not of certainties.

INTERESTING HEALTHS

- 201(a) 1933 Pathway. A really superb, well-centred mint block of 6 showing R3/3 with the prominent "Rift in clouds" and R2/1 with the "Clouds flaw and short LT in HEALTH". Supplied with an enlarged photographic reproduction for write-up purposes. The fine variety block. £11.00
- (b) As above. The R3/3 Rift in clouds flaw. Mint single £ 2.50

(c)	<u>As above.</u> R1/10 graver slip at top of left frame line. A good constant variety in a mint corner copy.....	£ 2.00
202	<u>1946 Soldier and Child.</u> Specialised collection of this philatelically fascinating issue. 9 variety blocks of the 1d + ½d, and 13 of the 2d + 1d with in addition copies showing the "Blurred centre" variety in each value, and a scarce single of the 1d + ½d wmk inverted. In all 163 stamps, all mint, housed in Hawid strips on 11 album leaves, and fully annotated	£17.50
203	<u>1949 Nurse and Child.</u> The three catalogued varieties - "Wristlet watch", "Bandaged finger" and "No dot below D" - are here in positional blocks of 9, 9 and 4 respectively. Plate blocks and sheet value blocks complete a fine lot of 42 stamps, all mint.....	£ 3.75
204	<u>1953 Guides.</u> The good "Leg flaw" on R2/10, in mint block of 4 with selvedge.	40p
205	<u>1956 Apple Tree.</u> The scarce deep sepia shade of the 1½d + ½d (S.G. 755a). Mint single, with normal for comparison	35p
206	<u>1957 Beach Scenes.</u> Another comprehensive lot, with plate blocks (showing the distinctive plate numbers used by Waterlow and Sons Ltd., at their Belgian printing works - unique in N. Z. issues), two nice variety blocks ("missing toe" and "bunion"), and miniature sheets with both sideways and upright wmk. The collection of 53 stamps, mint	£ 3.50
207	<u>1958 Brigade Children.</u> Singles, plate blocks and miniature sheets, plus an excellent representation of varieties on the 3d + 1d, there being no less than seven blocks from large sheets, and two additional miniature sheets, one of which includes the "tent retouched" variety. 66 stamps, mint.....	£5.75
208(a)	<u>1959 Poaka.</u> Set of five mint singles of the 3d + 1d. At one extreme, there is a normal stamp. At the other, a magnificent marginal copy of the <u>major variety red completely omitted</u> . In between, three strikingly different examples of red colour shifts, giving a spectacular array of "thick legs" and "double legs". All the makings of a star page in any collection,	£ 60.00
(b)	<u>1959 Tete.</u> Miniature sheet of the 2d + 1d with, on stamp no. 4, the clearly naked-eye variety "black-eyed gull". The variety miniature sheet.....	50p
209	<u>1963 Prince Andrew.</u> An all-variety display, comprising three blocks of the 2½d + 1d, each including a re-entry, two matching blocks of 6 of the 3d + 1d showing the R3/5 Finger Flaw <u>in both states</u> , and a miniature sheet of the 3d + 1d with the "Jam on shirt" variety on stamp 4	£ 9.75
210	<u>1964 2½d + 1d Tarapunga.</u> Similar to lot 208 (a) above. This time a series of four stamps, one having the red completely omitted, and another with a truly remarkable shift of the red, in which the larger bird's legs are perched on its own back, the smaller bird's legs are alongside its head, and both sets of eyes and beaks are in orbit among the letters of ZEALAND! Again the kind of material that makes the good collection great	£50.00
211	<u>1966 Weka.</u> A rare variety occurred in the top row of a very small number of sheets of the 4d + 1d. This appeared as a distinct crest on the bird's head. We offer a corner block of four, the upper two stamps having the "Crested Weka", mint.....	£30.00

N. Z. LAKES SET

New Zealand's stamp issues for 1972 ended on a high note with the set of 4 "Lakes" on 6th December. Printed by Courvoisier, this is a beautiful series by any standard, and is yet another compliment to the Swiss firm of master printers.

6c, 8c, 18c, 23c, Set of 4, mint	37p
Imprint/Plate blocks of 4. Set of 4 blocks (one each value).....	£ 1. 85
First Day Cover, Auckland postmark	45p

REVIEW OF OTHER 1972 ISSUES

18.1.72	Ross Dependency Definitives	
	Set of 6 (3c, 4c, 5c, 8c, 10c, 18c) Mint 39p, used.....	58p
	Imprint/Plate blocks. Complete set of 12 blocks.....	£6. 00
	First Day Cover, Scott Base postmark.....	65p
2.2.72	13th International Vintage Car Rally	
	Set of 6 (3c, 4c, 5c, 6c, 8c, 10c) Mint 32p, used.....	29p
	Imprint/Plate blocks. Complete set of 12 blocks	£5. 65
5.4.72	General Anniversaries	
	Set of 5 (3c, 4c, 5c, 8c, 10c). Mint 27p, used	26p
	Imprint/Plate blocks. Complete set of 8 blocks	£3. 80
	First Day Cover, Auckland postmark.....	32p
7.6.72	Alpine Plants	
	Set of 4 (4c, 6c, 8c, 10c) Mint 21p, used	21p
	Imprint/Plate blocks. Complete set of 5 blocks	£2. 45
	First Day Cover, Auckland postmark.....	28p
2.8.72	1972 Healths	
	Set of 2 (3c +1c, 4c + 1c) Mint 7p, used	7p
	Imprint/Plate blocks. Complete set of 2 blocks	70p
	Miniature sheets of 6 stamps each. Set of 2 sheets	40p
	First Day Cover, Auckland postmark	12p
	Health Camp Postmarks. Set of 6, each on separate illustrated cover bearing complete set of stamps	90p
4.10.72	1972 Christmas	
	Set of 3 (3c, 5c, 10c). Mint 14p, used	14p
	Imprint/Plate blocks. Complete set of 3 blocks	65p
	First Day Cover, Auckland postmark.....	18p
Around Oct. 1972	23c, 50c National Parks, new printings replacing previous supplies which had unsatisfactory gum. New printings are on much whiter paper, gum has a distinctive odour, and shades of green are in marked contrast to original printings.	
	Set of 2, mint.....	49p
	Imprint/Plate blocks, set of 2 blocks	£3. 00

COIL WRAPPERS/CENTRE PAPERS

212	1970-71 Definitives. Counter coil wrappers and centre papers for the 3c, 4c, 5c, 8c, 10c, 20c. The set	£5. 75
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COLLECTIONS

213	<u>1960 Pictorial 2½d Titoki</u> . A delightful single-value study (one of the most thorough we have seen) of this, perhaps the most prolific and rewarding of all the 1960 values. Plate flaws, retouches, spectacular colour shifts and doctor blade flaws, and a copy with brown almost totally missing are included, as well as a complete set of eight imprint/plate blocks of 12 stamps (even some of these have varieties annotated!). The 8 plate blocks, plus 100 other stamps in blocks, strips, pairs and singles, mint, all fully written up	£29. 50
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- 214 1967-70 Pictorials. A magnificent lot, commencing with a straight forward run-through of the complete set, and then continuing with a study in depth, value by value. Very rich in varieties, including many scarcer, for example flaw-and-retouch blocks on the 3c, the R8/6 Apostrophe flaw on the original 25c (also a block of this value with partial double perfs), and the R6/4 variety on the \$2 magenta. Many plate blocks are present, including the very scarce 15c green/orange, and both \$2 values. Housed in Hawid strips on 55 good-quality album leaves, the collection is not complete, (who wants a collection to which nothing can be added?), but what a start for someone seeking to put together an exhibition-class display. Around 1350 stamps, all mint. A superb opportunity at £150.00
- 215(a) King George VI Varieties. A fine collection, on 18 album leaves, of the K. G. VI "Heads." Every item includes at least one variety - many are multi-variety blocks - and all are fully annotated. Values covered are the ½d chestnut, 1d red, 1d green, 1½d red, 2d, 3d, 4d, 1/- (a particularly comprehensive lot), 1/3, 2/- and 3/-, and the 1d on ½d. In all 353 stamps, mint. A wonderful basis for expansion in this philatelically rich issue, and a real bargain at... £27.50
- (b) K. G. VI Inverted Watermarks. Mint singles of the ½d green, 1d red 1d green, 1½d chocolate, 9d, 1/-, 1/3, 2/-, 3/- and 1/- "official," all with wmk inverted (the high vlaues all have sideways wmk inverted). Many of these are scarce, and a collection like this is seldom available. The 10 "inverts"..... £ 8.50

COVERS

- 216 1955 N. Z. Postage Stamp Centenary. Complete set of three on each of two covers, having the special stamp exhibition cancellations of Auckland and Otahuhu College respectively. The pair of interesting covers..... 45p
- 217 1946 Peace. Complete set of 11 values, ½d - 1/-, on illustrated F. D. C. postmarked "Greenwood's Corner 1 AP 46"..... 50p
- 218 1954 Q. E. Definitives. The complete set of 12 values to 10/-, as originally issued, on first day cover postmarked "AUCKLAND 1 MR 54". Scarce..... £ 5.00
- 219 Mixed Lot. A superb lot of 55 covers from 1936. All different, including special flights, First Day Covers (many scarcer), special postmarks etc. etc. A real goldmine for someone - the price bears no relation to the true value. To the first order £ 8.50
(N. B. There is no duplication of any of the above in this lot.)

CHOICE SINGLE ITEMS

- 220 Double Perforations. Mint selvedge block of 6 of the 1960 5d Daisy with a complete extra strike of the comb head, giving two stamps in the block with the variety "complete double perfs". A superb example of a spectacular variety.. £16.00
- 221 1d Universal Plate Block. Fresh mint block of 4 from the Waterlow Trial Plates with the plate number W2 in the bottom selvedge. Very scarce, and much sought after. The plate block £25.00
- 222 2/- Captain Cook "Official". A mint positional block of 16 (2x8) of the perf 12½, fine paper issue (LO13e), including the "Coconuts flaw retouched" on R8/2. Seldom available, especially in a positional piece such as this..... £12.50

223	<u>First Sideface 5/-</u> . Used copies of this stamp in any kind of collectable condition are very difficult to find, but here is a lovely strip of three! A tiny fault at the top of one stamp is invisible from the front, and the whole strip is remarkably fresh with light dated cancel (26 FE 79). The used strip, extremely rare	£77.50
224	<u>1d Auckland Exhibition</u> . A very fine mint block of 4, one stamp with the variety "Thick comma after EXHIBITION" (believed constant, but sheet position not known to us). The variety block.....	£11.25

NEW SPECIAL POSTMARKS ON COVER

23/12/72	"Kingston Flyer/Lumsden N. Z. ".....	10p
26/12/72	"Dunedin - Alexandra/Goldfields Stage Coach Mail/Dunedin N. Z. ".....	10p
2/1/73	"International Girls Brigade/World Conference & Fonomarae/Auckland N. Z. ".....	10p

ANOTHER C. P. SPECIAL !

PENNY DOMINION - REFERENCE SET

As detailed in Volume 4 of "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand," five separate flaws developed on the transfer roller impression used to lay down Plate 12 of the 1d Dominion. These flaws developed cumulatively during the making of the plate. Thus stamps which show, for example, the third flaw also show the first two, and stamps with the fifth flaw show all four others.

We offer a set of 5 stamps from Plate 12, being one in each of the five flaw states. For easy recognition, we have identified these by pencilling the numbers 1 to 5 on the backs, and include a fully descriptive list of the five flaws.

The fine reference set of five stamps, used, with full description.....	£ 1.75
As above, but stamps overprinted OFFICIAL	£ 1.75
Clients ordering a set of each of the above at the same time may purchase at a special price for the two sets.....	£ 3.00

(Invariably when we offer reference sets, demand exceeds supply. Our best advice is, therefore, don't delay!)

RECENTLY ISSUED POSTAL STATIONERY - ALL UNUSED

Postcard 3c green on white	4p
Airmail Envelope 5c blue on azure	6p
Registered Envelope 22c red on buff	25p
We can still offer limited quantities of some earlier stationery items, while stocks last. These are listed below.	
Newspaper wrapper 3c green on buff.....	6p
Envelope 3c blue on white	6p
Do. 4c red on white	7p
Airmail Envelope. 4c blue on azure.....	6p
Letter Card 4c red on blue	7p
Postcard. Provisional issue. 2½c green on white surcharged "½c ADDITIONAL POSTAGE PAID" in black	10p
Registered Envelope 18c blue on buff	15p
Do. 18c red on buff.....	15p
Do. Provisional issue. 18c red on buff surcharged "4c ADDITIONAL POSTAGE PAID" in black	20p