

# NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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4c MOTH - BROWN COLOUR OMITTED

by Colin Hamilton

We have had one or two inquiries from lucky owners of this superb variety (which we had the great pleasure of distributing through our New Variety Service recently) about the apparently marked difference in the appearance of the yellow areas of the error stamp when compared with a normal stamp.

In the "No Browns", the value '4c' and the words 'New Zealand' are very much thicker than they appear to be in normal copies, and in fact "run into" their neighbours to such an extent that - especially in the case of the country name - they are difficult to read. (See illustration at top of page).

The explanation is really quite simple. We are seeing (in the error stamps) a basic "trick" used in multicolour printing, a trick which is usually concealed (in normally printed stamps).

Wherever it is at all possible, the plate-maker will make provision for darker colours to slightly overlap lighter colours wherever they meet in the printed design. By this means he allows for a certain margin of error in colour registration which can and does occur during the normal process of printing.

Taking the case in point, it is easy to imagine what would happen if the printing area on the

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N. B. If you have a regular account with us, and wish to avoid the minor chore of renewing annually, just add a brief note to the renewal form, and we will gladly debit your account automatically in future.

yellow plate were cut exactly to the size of the letters as they appear in a normal stamp - the very slightest shift of the yellow in relation to the brown (or vice versa) during printing would produce messy-looking lettering, part-yellow and part-white. So this problem is overcome by providing a slightly larger printing area on the yellow plate than is required by the finished design, and the surplus is effectively masked by the superimposition of the darker (brown) colour. If one examines any normal 4c stamp under a good glass, the overlapping of the colours is quite obvious. The clean-cut lettering of the finished stamp is, of course, achieved by means of the sharply defined edges of the printing area of the brown plate.

Another correspondent, having worked out for himself the explanation thus far, carries the question a stage farther. "Why", he wonders, "is the yellow cut to shape at all, when a solid block of colour would have produced the required result?" A good point, to which I think the probable answer is that while overlapping of the colours is not readily noticeable so long as the overlap is in the form of a regular, even "shadow", there is a strong possibility that (for example) a solid rectangular block of yellow around the words "New Zealand" would be obtrusively evident, even when "covered up" by the brown colour, and would thus mar the overall appearance of the stamp.

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We have (we hope !) already ensured that all whose interests include major errors have had the opportunity of including a copy of this variety in their collections. However, as anyone who has seen it will readily testify, the "No Brown" really is something rather special - no, quite breathtaking ! - so there may be some readers who, while not normally interested in missing colours, would like to give themselves an exceptional treat. At the time of writing, we still have a very few copies available at the privilege price of £47. 50 to regular clients.

Footnote. It is evident (from the note in the accompanying N. Z. Newsletter) that my colleague Warwick Paterson anticipated similar queries on the point discussed above. Since "Newsletter" and "Bulletin" notes are in the nature of things normally written independently and without inter-branch consultation, it is I suppose inevitable that overlapping - if the pun is forgiveable - of topics is an occasional hazard.

Q. E. 2d SURCHARGE ON 1½d "SMALL FIGURES" - C. P. N41a, S. G. 763b

Most readers will know that the surcharge on this error stamp normally has the large obliterating dot (measuring 4¼mm approx. in diameter).

A number of years ago, however - in May 1966 to be precise - we reported (in the columns of the N. Z. Newsletter) having seen a solitary used copy of N41a with the small dot surcharge (3¾mm diameter). Both sizes of dot occur with more or less equal frequency on the common surcharged issue of the 1½d with large figure of value (N40a), of course, but the 1966 copy of the error stamp remained the only recorded example with the small dot.

Now we can confirm the existence of a single mint copy, shown to us by Mr. J. Kersey. It will be interesting to see if this report brings to light any further examples. Since there is no reason to believe that the formes used for surcharging ever included a mixture of large and small dots, at least one complete sheet with the small dot surcharge must have existed.

Incidentally, Mr. Kersey tells us that the stamp has been in his possession for a number of years, unrecognised for what it is, but he has been doing some re-checking of his collection against a recently-acquired copy of our Catalogue, and this was one of his finds. There must surely be a moral here for others who don't yet own a C. P. Catalogue!

"ADSON"

The Second Sideface issues of 1893 with advertisements printed on the backs have always been popular because of their intense specialist interest. Now more than ever, the supply lags behind the demand. The following offers are all of the 2d value, used, with ads printed in the scarcer green.

- 701 (a) Complete Reconstructed Pane. Reconstruction of the lower left pane of 60, mostly by means of single stamps, but with three pairs included. Condition is very much higher than one normally expects in reconstructions. The complete reconstructed pane, rare ..... £75. 00
- (b) Multiples. Three magnificent strips of 3 (all different adverts). Multiples are invariably highly desirable property - in superfine used, as these are, they are "blue chip" material. The three strips, unrepeatable ..... £19. 50
- (c) As above. No less than ten joined pairs (all from different parts of the sheet). Condition again is quite outstanding - the adverts. are pristine, while the stamps themselves are superfine postally used. A marvellous lot ..... £37. 50
- (d) Single Copies, of the 2d value with green adverts. Selected finest used, each ..... £1. 85
- (e) As above. 10 different 2d Adson in green, again finest used ..... £16. 50
- (f) As above. Not so fine (but still very collectable). Five different, used ..... £4. 75

MISCELLANY

- 702 (a) Second Sidefaces. A total of 138 used stamps comprising  $\frac{1}{2}$ d (16, including one perf.  $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ , block of 4 and a strip of 4); 1d (23, die 1 x 3, die 2 x 2 and 18 die 3's including the abnormal perf.  $11 \times 10$ ); 2d (19, die 1 x 3, die 2 x 3 and 13 die 3's);  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d (17, including 2 pairs and a strip of 3); 3d (17 including a pair and two shades on 4mm Life Insurance paper); 4d (10); 5d (4); 6d (17, die 1 x 7 - including 2 shades perf. 10 - and die 2 x 10, including a strip of 4); 8d (2) and 1/- (13). Condition is good to superb, and with a 1975 Catalogue value in excess of £100 this lot must be a bargain at ..... £65. 00
- (b) As above. Nicely used pairs of the 1/- are always difficult - and desirable. The three used horizontal pairs, perf.  $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$  - in both 6mm and 7mm watermark - and perf. 11, offered here are no exception and would grace any collection ..... £15. 00
- (c) As above. A collection of used varieties with copies of 1d (18, including six varieties in pair with normal, and a pair with double perforations), 3d, 5d, 6d and 1/-. The 22 used stamps, seldom offered ..... £9. 00
- (d) As above. A set of 10 beautiful official reproduction Plate Proofs. All are imperf, printed in black, on unwatermarked paper and comprise 1d (2 shades), 2d (2 shades), 3d, 4d, 6d (both dies), 8d and 1/-. An attractive introduction to any Second Sideface collection ..... £15. 00
- 703 (a) First Pictorials. Complete simplified set of 22 values,  $\frac{1}{2}$ d - 5/-, including all changes of colour, design and size. Good to fine mint, and of very fresh appearance (one or two faults affect the backs of the stamps only). Minimum Cat. £43, the lovely set of 22 ..... £27. 50

- 703 (b) "London" Prints. A mint collection of 31 stamps from the 1898 London Prints. Included are  $\frac{1}{2}$ d (3), 1d (3), 2d (2), 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d WAKITIPU (5), 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d WAKATIPU (1), 3d (2), 4d (4), 5d (2), 6d (2), 8d (2), 9d, 1/- (2), 2/- and 5/-. Condition varies from well above average to superb, except the 2/- which is thinned and is included free of charge. The collection of 31 mint stamps (Cat. over £55) ..... £40. 00
- (c) 3d Huias. 12 mint stamps, perf. 11 watermarked (E9c) from the bottom row of a sheet, with bottom and side selvages, showing the uncatalogued variety Letters Watermark. The 12 stamps are in two strips of 6 stamps each, the first showing the wmk letters NEW Z, and the second EALAND with sheet serial number 752023. Only the tiniest portion of the NZ and star wmk shows at the top of each stamp. In addition there is a re-entry on R10/2. Beautiful material ..... £20. 00
- (d) As above. A mint block of four, with left hand selvedge; showing on the two left hand stamps are the letters wmk EW, the two right hand stamps are normal NZ and star wmk. Attractive ..... £5. 00
- (e) 4d White Terrace (E11a). Three beautifully distinctive shades, each in mint horizontal pair ..... £4. 50
- 704 (a) First Pictorial "Officials". Complete simplified set overprinted 'Official' (2d, 3d, 6d large, 6d reduced size, 1/-, 2/- and 5/-), plus the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d green Mt Cook and 1d Universal. The set of 9 unused - not all top grade, but very presentable looking copies ..... £8. 50
- (b) As above. A most unusual and attractive lot of these early 'Officials', consisting of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d Green Mt Cook, 1d Universal, First Pictorial 2d, 3d, 6d (large design), 1/-, 2/- and 5/- - all in unused vertical pairs except the 5/-, which is a horizontal pair. There is considerable gum discolouration but, surprisingly the facial appearance is scarcely affected. A lovely page of 8 pairs (Cat. nearly \$60) ..... £12. 25
- (c) As above. Brilliant mint, well-centred block of 4 of the redrawn 6d 'Official', perf. 14 x 15 (E015c). A scarce stamp, seldom seen in blocks £20. 00
- 705 (a)  $\frac{1}{2}$ d Mount Cook, Green. Seven mint stamps on Cowan watermarked paper from the original plates (F4a - e), showing all the Catalogued perforation combinations, perf. 11, perf. 14 (3), perf. 11 x 14, perf. 14 x 11 and mixed perfs. Nice ..... £7. 00
- (b) As above. A single mint marginal stamp, on Cowan wmk'd paper, perf. 14, variety imperforate vertically (F4bZ). Although this variety is normally collected as a horizontal pair, the presence of a wide side selvedge obviates the possibility that this is a trimmed down normal stamp. Slightly soiled, but otherwise good condition ..... £10. 00
- 706 (a) 1d Universal. Blocks of four in this philatelically fascinating issue are notoriously difficult to obtain, but this collection contains no less than 9 of them. Included are London Print (G1a), "Pirie" paper, perf. 11 - corner block with sheet serial number (G2a), Cov.an unwatermarked paper, perf. 14 (G4a), Cowan watermarked paper, perf. 14 - 2 blocks showing different degrees of plate wear (G5a), Dot plate, perf. 14 - 3 blocks, one of which shows advanced plate wear (G8a) and Royle plate, perf. 14 - in a deep rich "blood red" and including one stamp with re-entry and two stamps retouched (G10a). Condition is good to superb .. £18. 00

- 706 (b) As above. A mint single of the elusive perf. 14 x 11 on Cowan unwmk'd paper (G4c) ..... £6. 50
- (c) As above. Mint vertical pair from the Dot plates (very worn) with mixed perfs. (G8d). Some minor creasing, but nice ! ..... £3. 50
- 707 K. G. V 5d, perf. 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{4}$  issue (K7a). A mint single completely imperforate (Cat. £27. 50 + as a pair) ..... £4. 75
- 708 K. G. V  $\frac{1}{2}$ d Green. During the period of printings on "Cowan" paper, the two plates of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d became very worn at the top, resulting in heavily blurred prints in the top row of issued sheets. We can offer the following from stock - all showing prominently this pronounced plate wear.
- (a) Perf. 14 x 15 (K13e). Mint pair with top selvedge ..... 35p
- (b) Perf. 14 (K13f). Mint single with top selvedge ..... 20p
- 709 Q. E. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d on 3d Provisional. Mint plate block of 4 from plate 17 with narrow setting of the surcharge. The very scarce "abnormal" plate block ..... £37. 50
- 710 1960 3d Kowhai. Strip of 4 from a slot machine coil, with central butt join. The left-hand pair of stamps is normal; the right-hand pair has the variety green colour partly omitted - the leaves on the lower half of the stamps are white. The most attractive strip, superfine mint ..... £7. 50
- 711 1967 50c Booklet. These booklets came with various markings on the selvedges of the constituent panes, as follows: (i) XA alongside upper row; (ii) XA alongside lower row; (iii) XB alongside upper row; (iv) XB alongside lower row, and (v) without selvedge markings. We have available one set of 5 unbroken booklets, each having all panes in one of the five forms described. Absolutely complete, and unrepeatable ..... £12. 50
- (b) As above. The individual pane of 5 x 1c stamps plus printed label (S.G. 846a), without selvedge marking, from the 1967 booklet ..... 25p
- 712 (a) 1920 Victory. A range of beautiful shades of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d (4), 1d (3), 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d (2), 3d (2), 6d (2) and 1/- (2). Marvellous coverage of a scarce issue - and becoming even more elusive. The 15 stamps, good to superfine mint .. £27. 50
- (b) As above, set of 6, one of each value as above. Perfect unhinged mint - seldom seen thus ..... £14. 50
- (c) As above. A one-of-each set, values as above, including the 2d on  $\frac{1}{2}$ d provisional. The set of 7, very fine mint ..... £12. 65
- (d) As above. A set of shades similar to lot (a) above but used, and including the 2d on  $\frac{1}{2}$ d provisional. Comprises  $\frac{1}{2}$ d (3), 1d (3), 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d (2) 2d on  $\frac{1}{2}$ d (3), 3d (1), 6d (2) and 1/- (2). One copy of the 6d and one of the 1/- have parcel cancels, but neither is in the "killer" class. Condition otherwise is excellent. The used set of 16 ..... £17. 00
- 713 (a) 1925 Dunedin Exhibition. The top-grade mint set of three values. Becoming scarcer and scarcer and scarcer ..... £12. 25
- (b) As above. The R10/1 POSTAGF variety on the 4d, confirmed as the Catalogued variety by the touch-up to the curved frame line immediately below the "F". (C. P. S17cZ, S. G. 538a) ..... £17. 50

- 714 (a) 1957 Health. Examples of the 2d + 1d miniature sheet with both sideways and upright watermark, each sheet showing the distinct evidence of re-entry doubling above stamps 1, 2 and 4, first reported in last month's N. Z. Bulletin. The two variety miniature sheets, mint £4. 65
- (b) As above. The miniature sheet with upright watermark only, again with the re-entry characteristics as above. The miniature sheet ..... £3. 10
- 715 1958 Health. Miniature sheet of the 3d + 1d value with variety "One stamp, tent retouched" (stamp no. 6). The variety miniature sheet, mint £1. 85

KING GEORGE V RECESS PRINTED 'OFFICIALS'

- 716 (a) Complete set in both main perforations with, perf. 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ , the 3d, 4d, 6d (2 shades), 8d, 9d, 1/-, and perf. 14 x 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ , the 3d, 4d, 6d (2 shades), 1/- . All are in lovely mint horizontal pairs except the 9d, which is a single. In addition, there is a matching pair of the 3d perf. 14 (on "Pictorial" paper), and a vertical pair of the same issue, one stamp having no wmk. The very scarce 8d pair (now Cat. \$50 per stamp) is superb unmounted. The magnificent collection of 13 pairs and a single ..... £92. 50
- (b) As above. A rather similar set, but all single stamps, and without the extra shades and the 3d "no wmk" variety. The set of 11 stamps, mint.. £42. 50
- (c) As above. Used set, composition exactly as lot (b) above, except that there is no 3d on "Pictorial" paper. The used set of 10 stamps, good to fine ..... £24. 50
- 717 (a) "Two-Perf" Blocks. Set of 4 mint blocks of 4, each having the two perfs. 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{4}$  and 14 x 14 $\frac{1}{4}$  se-tenant. The set includes the 3d (two blocks in outstanding shades, one showing pronounced plate wear), 6d and 1/- (in the vermilion shade). The 4 blocks ..... £44. 50
- (b) As above. "Two-perf." block of the 3d value only, fine mint ..... £6. 25
- (c) As above. "Two-perf." block of the 6d, in a shade contrasting distinctly with the block included in lot (a) above and, although "plate wear" copies are not specifically listed in this value, the wear evident here is very pronounced ..... £9. 25
- 718 (a) 3d Chocolate perf. 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{4}$  (KO4a). The two listed shades of deep chocolate and chocolate-brown. At least one of the copies supplied shows plate wear. The two shades, mint ..... £1. 00
- (b) As above. Exactly similar to lot (a), but in the other perf. 14 x 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ (KO4b) 95p
- (c) As above. Mint copies in each perf., both with variety watermark inverted (KO4aX and KO4bY). The two 'inverts' ..... £2. 50
- (d) As above. The provisional issue on 'Pictorial' paper (KO4d) .  
Mint block of 4 ..... £1. 50  
or Single copies, mint, each ..... 37p
- 719 4d Violet. Mint single, perf. 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{4}$  (and therefore from plate 20). Stamps from this plate, overprinted 'Official' invariably show pronounced plate wear. The mint 4d (KO5d) ..... £3. 00  
or used, each ..... 30p