

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N. Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

by Colin Hamilton

King George V Recess (i) In October 1973 I reported discovering a block of 4 of the George V 5d in the pale ultramarine shade, with the lower pair of stamps perf $14 \times 13\frac{1}{4}$ at sides and bottom and the upper pair completely imperf - a variety not previously recorded in ultramarine, although long known to exist in the blue shade. For the $3\frac{1}{2}$ years since, that block has enjoyed the status of "only known example" (no others having been reported in the meantime), but I have lately found a second, and in every way similar, block. So I would again exhort those collectors fortunate enough to own a partly-imperf 5d piece - whether pair or block - to re-check its shade. Some people find the 5d shades confusing, I know, but in this case there can be no mistaking the "good" variety, since it exactly matches the colour of any 5d two-perf. pair. (I hasten to add that I use the word "good" here in a strictly relative sense, for the same variety in blue is itself a highly desirable one).

King George V Recess (ii). Another, and philatelically very intriguing, observation also concerns the 5d, though as will be seen, it leads directly to much wider implications.

Casting a glass (for no particular reason, other than that they were an unusually attractive lot) over an album page of 5d's the other day, I was surprised to note signs of apparent retouching in virtually every stamp on the page - similar in appearance to the repair work seen in 4d stamps printed from plate 44. Irregularities of the shading within the groups of stars at the lower corners was readily discernible. In the 5d, this work seems to be mainly, but not entirely, concentrated in the 'twelve-o'-clock' star of the left-hand group, whereas in the 4d it was the 'three-o'-clock' star of the right-hand group which received most attention. Examination of other copies of the 5d confirmed that a very high proportion showed evidence of retouching.

It so happens that these two plates are consecutively numbered (the 5d being plate 43), and furthermore, it was at that time the custom of the makers, Perkins Bacon & Co. to number all the plates they supplied to the N. Z. authorities in a continuous unbroken sequence (about which more later). So it is a reasonable inference that these plates were consecutive productions, even though there was an interval of something like three or four years between the manufacture of plate 43 (1921-22) and plate 44 (1925-26).

We must now consider the somewhat involved method used by Perkins Bacon & Co. for the production of the K. G. V recess plates. Initially a flat die for the 3d value was engraved, and from this original die, three separate impressions were taken up on a transfer roller. One of these was used to lay down the plates for the 3d.

From the remaining two transfer impressions, the (3d) values were removed, and in one the

size of the now blank value tablets was increased (to allow for the extra space needed for values incorporating $\frac{1}{2}$, i. e. $1\frac{1}{2}$ d, $2\frac{1}{2}$ d, $4\frac{1}{2}$ d, $7\frac{1}{2}$ d). The two 'valueless' impressions were then used to lay down subsidiary flat dies for each denomination, and the necessary values were added to these dies. Finally, transfer roller impressions were taken up from the completed subsidiary dies, and used to lay down the required plates.

Reverting to the 4d and 5d. Volume 1 of the N. Z. Handbook states that plate 44 was laid down from the same transfer roller impression as the original 4d plate 20, and suggests by way of explanation of all the repair work necessary to plate 44 that "evidently in the meantime there had been some deterioration in the state of the roller". But if this is so, isn't it a strange coincidence that similar defects should occur on plate 43, which must have originated from a new subsidiary die and transfer roller (the 5d being a new value)? Could it not be the case that (i) there was indeed deterioration, but it affected the master transfer roller impression, that is the original one with '3d' removed from the value tablets, and (ii) plate 44 was made, not as suggested in Volume 1, but from a transfer roller impression taken up from a new subsidiary die laid down after the 5d?

Much more detailed investigation is required before forming any firm conclusion and to this end, in addition to the two plates discussed above, a study of stamps from their near-neighbours in the sequence of manufacture, i. e. plates 42 and 41 (1/-) and 39 (8d), would obviously be invaluable. My own observations thus far have been limited by lack of material, especially in the case of the 1/-, but such as they are they suggest that the 8d does not show any of the abnormalities, while in the few plate 41 and 42 1/- stamps I have been able to examine, there is pronounced weakness in the shading of the stars; sometimes it is almost completely absent. Since earlier 1/-'s (from plates 26 and 27) appear to be normal, this in turn suggests that the later 1/- plates, too, may have emanated from a new subsidiary die, and that the previously mentioned deterioration of the master transfer impression occurred immediately after the making of the 8d die.

It is hoped that these notes may stimulate readers into a close examination of their own material, and any additional information reported to us will gladly be considered for publication.

The apparently haphazard numbering of plates of the K. G. V period (and in some earlier issues) may be perplexing to some. It results from the system favoured by Perkins Bacon & Co., and mentioned briefly in the above notes. The situation is further complicated by the fact that although that firm's numbering system was applied to all plates it supplied (commencing with the redrawn Pictorial issues of 1907-8), the actual numbers appeared only on sheets printed from recess plates. The following complete checklist of Perkins, Bacon plates of the period, with their numbers, may be useful (an asterisk alongside any number or group of numbers indicates that these plate numbers did not appear on issued sheets):

1, 2, 3, 4	1907-08 $\frac{1}{2}$ d Mt Cook	26, 27	K. G. V 1/-
5, 6	1907-08 6d Kiwi (Reduced design)	*28, 29	K. G. V $\frac{1}{2}$ d (sheet issues)
7	1907-08 3d Huias (Reduced design)	*30	K. G. V $1\frac{1}{2}$ d Surface print (London plate)
8	1907-08 1/- Kea & Kaka (Reduced design)		
*9	1907-08 1d Universal Surface Printed	*31	K. G. V 2d surface print
*10, 11	$\frac{1}{2}$ d Edward (sheet issues)	*32	K. G. V 3d surface print
*12, 13	1d Dominion (sheet issues)	*33	K. G. V $\frac{1}{2}$ d steel booklet plate
14	K. G. V $1\frac{1}{2}$ d recess	*34	1d Dominion steel booklet plate
15, 16	K. G. V 2d recess	*35	K. G. V $1\frac{1}{2}$ d surface print (London plate)
17	K. G. V $2\frac{1}{2}$ d	*36	K. G. V 2d surface print
18, 19	K. G. V 3d recess	37, 38	K. G. V 6d
20	K. G. V 4d	39, 40	K. G. V 8d
21	K. G. V $4\frac{1}{2}$ d	41, 42	K. G. V 1/-
22, 23	K. G. V 6d	43	K. G. V 5d
24	K. G. V $7\frac{1}{2}$ d	44	K. G. V 4d
25	K. G. V 9d	*45	K. G. V 1d steel booklet plate

Note: The K. G. V 8d plate 40 was never used. There is evidence in the form of proofs that a third plate for this value was made, but it was not delivered, and was not allocated a number.

FOR THE CONNOISSEUR

- 201 1d Dominion. The rare 'Jones' variety on unsurfaced paper (J2aX), easily recognised by its pale dull shade. Only a single sheet with defective surfacing was issued, and about half the stamps on that sheet were printed on the unsurfaced area. This example has a slight stain on the top left corner but is otherwise fine mint £38. 00
- 202 King George V 5d. Top marginal block of 4, completely imperf, in blue (K7aY). Brilliant mint £110. 00
- 203 As above. Another block of 4, in ultramarine, the upper pair being completely imperf, the lower pair perf. 14x13 $\frac{1}{4}$ at sides and bottom. A great rarity, only one other block being recorded (see this month's notes). Superfine mint (K7aW) £495. 00
- 204 King George V 9d. Mint vertical pair, partly imperf., rare even in sage green but rarer still in (as here) the yellow-olive shade. An exquisite piece (K11aX) £375. 00
- 205 King George V 2/- and 3/- Admiral. The Jones paper issues in unmounted mint blocks of 4. The 2/- block has one or two ragged perfs; the 3/- (with wmk inverted, incidentally) is sheer perfection. The Admirals, very seldom seen in blocks £200. 00
- 206 Queen Elizabeth 1/-. Perfect mint corner block of 4 of the Centre Die 1b issue (N10b), with plate number 1B3B in the bottom selvedge. The rare plate block £310. 00
- 207 Q. E. 2d on 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d Provisional. Mint imprint/plate block of six stamps (with plate no. 13, of course) of the error "surcharge on wrong stamp" (N41a). Unmounted, and perfect in every way £310. 00

208 4c PURIRI MOTH - BRIGHT GREEN (wing veins) INVERTED

The most remarkable of all modern N. Z. varieties, without any doubt. There is only one precedent in the whole history of N. Z. stamps, that being a solitary copy of the First Pictorial 4d Lake Taupo with the centre printed inverted. There is considerable doubt as to whether that stamp now exists - certainly its whereabouts have been a mystery for many years.

The 4c "Inverted Veins" was first reported in April 1976, and we understand that seven 75c booklets have been recorded, each containing one pane of six stamps with the variety. To our knowledge, the single example here offered is the only one to have become available in the U. K.

The 4c Inverted Veins, perfect mint Price on request

- 209 1931 Health. Horizontal pairs of the 'Smiling Boys', each pair being cancelled by a superb strike of the Wellington registered c. d. s. of 31st October 1931 - the first day of issue of these stamps. A magnificent pair of pairs £225. 00

Note: A first day cover bearing one set of Smiling Boys recently sold for £350.

- 210 **Air Mail Cover.** An opened-out cover from Tauranga to England, franked with various adhesives, one of which is the very scarce 3d Air Mail, perf. 14x15 (V1b), beautifully tied by the Tauranga c. d. s. of 7 OC 35. Vol. I states that the total sales of this short-lived 3d stamp were between 150-200, and certainly used on dated cover it is an extreme rarity (a fact confirmed by C. P. himself). The cover is obviously not "philatelic", and is clean and fresh, apart from one or two faint age spots, fortunately well clear of the important stamp. The cover, quite possibly unique £295. 00

Note: The recorded offices and periods of availability of the 14x15 3d are of particular interest in connection with the cover offered above. The stamps were available at the C. P. O. Wellington from August-October 1935, and at Invercargill, Wellington East and Tauranga in October 1935 only.

SECOND SIDEFACES

Certain values of the Second Sidefaces are quite often seen in quantity, but very seldom is the series as a whole seen in depth. The following offers combine both of these qualities, and they are therefore ideally suited to provide the basis of a first-class "Second Sideface" collection.

- 211 **Perf. 12x11 $\frac{1}{2}$** , 6mm wmk, HM paper. A set of 13 stamps, including 1d (2, Die I and II), 2d (2, Die I and II), 3d (2), 4d, 6d (3), 8d, 1/- (2) - the $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 5d were not issued on this paper. The fine set of 13 used stamps, Cat. £32 £22. 50
- 212 (a) **Perf. 12 x 11 $\frac{1}{2}$** , 7mm wmk, VM paper. No less than 28 used stamps with many shades. Included are 1d (6, two Die II and four Die III), 2d (4, two each Die II and III), 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d (4), 3d (3), 4d (4), 5d (3), 6d (2), 8d, 1/-. Only the extremely scarce $\frac{1}{2}$ d is missing (priority gladly given on the waiting list to the purchaser of this lot, if required). The 28 used stamps, Cat £54 £40. 00
- (b) **As above.** 6d Die I (D8b), used single £1. 35
- 213 (a) **Perf. 12x11 $\frac{1}{2}$** , 4mm wmk "Life Insurance" paper. 5 used stamps - 1d, 2d, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 3d, 6d, only the 1/- needed for completion - the $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 4d, 5d and 8d were not issued on this paper. Cat. £10 + £8. 00
- (b) **As above.** Used single of the 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d (D4a) on 4mm wmk paper £1. 75
- 214 (a) **Perf. 10.** Another superb set of shades, all perf. 10, and including $\frac{1}{2}$ d (2), 1d (7), 2d (8), 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d (2), 3d (2), 4d, 5d, 6d (2), 8d (with Adson, of course) and 1/- (3). The 29 used stamps, Cat. £36 + £27. 50
- (b) **As above.** 8 delightful shades of the 2d (D3g), all used £1. 75
- (c) **As above.** The two Catalogued shades of D4e (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d), used £2. 50
- (d) **As above.** 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d perf. 10 (D4e), 2nd setting Adson in red, with the Catalogued variety watermark reversed. Superb used copy of a rare stamp £19. 00
- (e) **As above.** Used single of the 5d perf. 10 (D7d) £1. 50
- (f) **As above.** A mint copy of the 8d perf 10 with Adson (as it invariably is). Fine £12. 75

215	(a)	<u>Perf. 10x11.</u> 19 used stamps, all with regular compound perforations (10x11), comprising $\frac{1}{2}$ d (2), 1d (4), 2d (5), $2\frac{1}{2}$ d (4), 3d, 4d, 6d, 1/-. The 5d is missing for completion (again waiting list priority gladly given to the purchaser, if required) - the 8d was not issued with this perf. combination. A fine set, showing a nice range of shades. Cat. £17 + ..	£13. 75
	(b)	<u>As above.</u> Used copies of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d (D1cY) and the 1d (D2mZ) with the variety <u>perforation 11 x 10.</u> Scarce	£4. 50
216	(a)	<u>Perf. 11.</u> An extensive collection of 33 stamps, ail perf. 11, with many fine shades. Included are $\frac{1}{2}$ d (4), 1d (6), 2d (5), $2\frac{1}{2}$ d (4), 3d (4), 4d (3), 5d, 6d (3), 8d, 1/- (2). At £40 Catalogue the collection is a bargain at ..	£30. 00
	(b)	<u>As above.</u> Set of 6 shades of the 1d (D2p), all <u>mint</u> and fine	£7. 00
	(c)	<u>As above.</u> Similar set of 6 1d shades, but used	£1. 25
217	(a)	<u>Perf. 11, Provisional "Waterlow" paper,</u> wmk sideways. Both the $\frac{1}{2}$ d (D1h) and the 2d (D3p) are represented by single mint copies	£3. 20
	(b)	<u>As above.</u> Set of 5 used stamps, $\frac{1}{2}$ dx2 (D1h) and 2dx3 (D3p) - attractive shade contrasts. The five used stamps	£1. 00
218	(a)	<u>"Screwdriver" Flaw.</u> Four mint copies of the 1d showing the R9/2 (bottom left-hand pane) "Screwdriver" flaw - perf. $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ (D2e), perf. 10 (D2j), perf. 10x11 (D2m) and perf. 11 (D2p) - together with a normal mint stamp for comparison. The five mint stamps	£17. 00
	(b)	<u>As above.</u> A selection of used copies of the R9/2 "Screwdriver" flaw, including two perf. 10 copies (with and without Adson), perf. 10x11 (in pair with normal), and perf. 11 (also in pair with normal). The variety set as described	£10. 00

FIRST TYPE POSTAGE DUES

A rare chance - many of these 'Dues' are almost unobtainable nowadays.

219		<u>Complete Used Set</u> of 14 values as listed in our Catalogue (Y1a-Y14a) and in S. G. (D1 - D16). Condition varies from good to very fine - overall well above average for this set - and by way of a bonus the scarce 10d and 2/- values show excellent examples of frame plate double strikes. The set of 14 used, seldom offered	£175. 00
220	(a)	<u>8d (Y2a).</u> Good mint copy	£15. 50
	(b)	<u>As above.</u> Mint, with several small stain spots	£3. 50
	(c)	<u>1/- (Y3a).</u> Fine mint	£15. 50
	(d)	<u>2/- (Y4a).</u> Good mint copy, centred a little left	£30. 00
	(e)	<u>As above.</u> Another good copy, some gum disturbance	£20. 00
	(f)	<u>5d (Y5a).</u> Very good mint	£6. 35
	(g)	<u>As above.</u> Brilliant mint unmounted block of 4 (marginal), superb centring. Rare thus	£32. 50
	(h)	<u>As above.</u> Another block of 4 (non marginal), unmounted mint	£30. 00

220	(i)	<u>As above.</u> Average used copy	£3. 75
	(j)	<u>6d (Y6a).</u> Mint, unmounted. Superb	£9. 50
	(k)	<u>As above.</u> Average used	£6. 25
	(l)	<u>10d (Y7a).</u> Mint and fine	£19. 00
	(m)	<u>As above.</u> Unused copy, fine but for an inconspicuous 2mm tear. Good spacefiller	£2. 75
	(n)	<u>½d Large 'D', Small 'NZ' (Y8a).</u> Finest mint, each	30p
	(o)	<u>As above.</u> "No Stop after D" variety (Y8aZ) in mint block of 6. Somewhat off-centre, but very scarce	£7. 95
	(p)	<u>As above.</u> Complete pane of 60 from top left of sheet, with selvedge on all four sides, and showing the three value plate varieties, the seven frame plate double strikes, and the fourteen constant "master electro" characteristics, all as listed in Vol. 1. The pane of 60, superb mint (unfolded)	£22. 50
	(q)	<u>1d Large 'D', Small 'NZ' (Y9a).</u> Mint copy	£2. 50
	(r)	<u>As above.</u> Brilliant mint marginal block of 4, two stamps with 'Double Strike' varieties	£12. 75
	(s)	<u>3d Large 'D', Small 'NZ' (Y11a).</u> Fine mint	£3. 75
	(t)	<u>As above.</u> Superfine mint block of 4, marginal, unhinged	£17. 50
	(u)	<u>As above.</u> Fine used singles, each	95p
	(v)	<u>1d Small 'D', Small 'NZ' (Y12a).</u> Block of 4, finest mint unhinged	£14. 25
	(w)	<u>2d Small 'D', Small 'NZ' (Y13a).</u> Average used copies, each	60p
	(x)	<u>4d (Y14a).</u> Fine mint	£9. 25
	(y)	<u>As above.</u> Marginal block of 4, superb unmounted	£45. 00
	(z)	<u>As above.</u> Complete pane of 60, from bottom left of sheet, with all selvedges (full details of all varieties and constant electro characteristics are included). Superlative mint, and of the greatest rarity. The last time we handled such a piece was seven or eight years ago - and it was this very same pane! Now Cat. \$900 as single stamps	£400. 00

SECOND TYPE POSTAGE DUES

221	(a)	<u>½d No Wmk, Perf. 11 (Y15a).</u> Mint single	25p
	(b)	<u>As above.</u> Block of 4, superfine mint	£1. 00
	(c)	<u>½d Wmk Sideways, Perf. 11 (Y15b).</u> Used single	32p
	(d)	<u>As above.</u> Mint block of 4, marginal, unhinged	£1. 35
	(e)	<u>As above.</u> Large mint block of 120 stamps, being the complete bottom half of a sheet. Because the stamps were arranged in four panes of 60, with gutters between, this piece includes 10 "gutter pairs". Fine research material	£30. 00

221	(f)	<u>½d De La Rue Paper</u> (Y15c). Used single	28p
	(g)	<u>½d Litho "Wmk"</u> Y15e). Superfine used, scarce	£4. 75
	(h)	<u>As above.</u> Complete mint sheet of 120 (12x10), including the constant varieties detailed in Vol. 1. A little creasing and staining at the outer edge of the wide bottom selvedge, otherwise finest mint	£27. 50
	(i)	<u>½d Cowan Paper, Perf. 14x15</u> (Y15f). The two listed shades of carmine-pink/green and carmine/yellow-green in mint blocks of 4. Magnificent contrasts	£2. 75
222	(a)	<u>1d Wmk Sideways, Perf. 11</u> (Y16a). Mint single	£2. 40
	(b)	<u>As above.</u> Used single	£1. 25
	(c)	<u>1d Wmk Sideways, Perf. 14</u> (Y16b). Mint single	£1. 40
	(d)	<u>As above.</u> Block of 4, mint unhinged	£6. 25
	(e)	<u>As above.</u> Used single ...	13p
	(f)	<u>1d De La Rue Paper</u> (Y16c). Mint single	£1. 50
	(g)	<u>As above.</u> Used single	13p
	(h)	<u>1d Cowan Paper, Perf. 14x15</u> (Y16d). Used single	13p
	(i)	<u>1d Cowan Paper, Perf. 14</u> (Y16e). Used single	10p
	(j)	<u>1d Wiggins Teape Paper</u> (Y16f). Used single	10p
223	(a)	<u>2d Watermark Sideways, Perf. 11</u> (Y17a). The rarest of all N. Z. Postage Dues (only 20 sheets were printed with this perf.) We can offer a choice of mint unmounted or finest used at, each	£44. 50
	(b)	<u>As above.</u> A marginal block of 4 of this rarity, unmounted mint and perfectly centred	£180. 00
	(c)	<u>2d Sideways Watermark, Perf. 14</u> (Y17b). Mint single	£1. 40
	(d)	<u>As above.</u> Mint block of 4, unmounted	£5. 75
	(e)	<u>As above.</u> Used single, fine	32p
	(f)	<u>2d De La Rue Paper</u> (Y17c). Fine mint block of 4	£9. 00
	(g)	<u>As above.</u> Used single	60p
	(h)	<u>2d Litho "Wmk"</u> (Y17d). Mint single	95p
	(i)	<u>As above.</u> Marginal block of 4, finest mint	£4. 00
	(j)	<u>As above.</u> Single superfine used, and scarce thus	£3. 15
	(k)	<u>2d Cowan Paper, Perf. 14</u> (Y17g). Fine used	60p
	(l)	<u>2d Wiggins Teape Paper</u> (Y17h). Marginal block of 4, finest mint	£11. 50
	(m)	<u>As above.</u> Used single, fine	60p

224	(a)	<u>3d Cowan Paper, Perf. 14 (Y18a).</u> Mint copy fine	£6. 25
	(b)	<u>As above.</u> Fine used	£6. 00
	(c)	<u>3d Wiggins Teape Paper (Y18c).</u> Marginal block of 4, superfine mint ..	£27. 50

QUEEN ELIZABETH OFFICIALS

225		<u>Complete, Complete Set !</u> 18 stamps from 1d to the key 3/- including all changes of paper, provisionals, and the two listed varieties (3d with inverted watermark, and the 4d printed on the gummed side, with wmk inverted-and-reversed). The set of 18, finest mint	£52. 50
226	(a)	<u>Complete Set.</u> As the previous lot, but without the two varieties. 16 stamps, mint unmounted	£15. 00
	(b)	<u>As above.</u> The same content as lot (a), but finest used	£22. 50
227		<u>Blocks Set.</u> The 16 items as in lot 226 (a), but each in mint block of 4 ..	£62. 50

RECENT ISSUES

		<u>50c Abel Tasman National Park.</u> Fourth printing, with characteristics of Third Printing, but with bluish gum.	
		Mint single	48p
		Imprint/Plate block of 6 stamps	£3. 05
		<u>1976 Christmas.</u> Delayed supplies of the 11c from plate 1B are now to hand, and imprint/plate blocks (6 stamps) from this plate can be supplied individually at	70p
or		In complete set of 6 imprint/plate blocks (two each value)	£4. 25
		<u>As above.</u> A prominent horizontal scratch affected stamps from Row 6 - here shown in a mint block of 8, with central gutter (the scratch also crosses this gutter, where it is most noticeable)	75p
		<u>1976 Collectors Pack.</u> Contains all five special issues from the 1976 Anniversaries to 1976 Christmas inclusive. Attractively packaged and presented. Price, post paid	£3. 60
17/11/76		<u>Life Insurance Dept.</u> 8c (East Cape), 10c (Farewell Spit). Two attractive new additions to the 'Lighthouses' set issued in 1969.	
		Set of two, mint or used	19p
		Imprint/plate blocks. Complete set of 4 blocks of 6 stamps (two each value)	£2. 40
		Imprint/plate blocks. Set of 2 blocks (one each value)	£1. 25
		Illustrated F. D. C. (Wanganui postmark)	30p
		<u>Postal Stationery 8c Letter Card.</u> Dull carmine on azure, unused	12p
		<u>Special Cancellation.</u> Opening of Buller River Bridge, Westport, 11 DEC 1976, on new 25c postal stationery postcard (this postcard is to be used in conjunction with future special cancels)	30p