

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

A watermark detector that works consistently must sound like manna from heaven to those – and there are many – who experience difficulties with this aspect of stamps. A number of aids, ranging from the basic black tray to quite complicated gadgets have been, and still are, available but all have shortcomings of one sort or another – the most important of which is that in the case of a 'difficult' stamp, they frequently fail to reveal the watermark!

However, I have good news for those in despair. I recently tested the new "Morley-Bright" Mark 2 detector, and was impressed both by its simplicity and by its successful results. Over a range of stamps, including some which I can confirm from experience really do present problems using other methods, it did not fail me once.

In simplest terms, the device consists of a smooth glass plate, a permanently sealed clear sachet containing a small amount of a violet-coloured liquid paste, and a roller. The stamp to be examined is placed on the plate and the sachet is superimposed. The roller is then drawn over the sachet, dispersing the paste inside, and leaving behind a perfectly legible impression of the watermark. A minimum of practice will indicate how to manipulate the roller for best results.

Mint or used stamps can be checked equally well, face up or face down (although I noticed that sometimes the reaction given by any one stamp was better face up than it was face down, or vice versa), and stamps on cover or piece also present no problems, provided that the backing material is smooth and flat. I'm no scientific expert, but it is obvious that the principle on which the device works is the closest possible all-over contact between glass, stamp and sachet (a "perfect sandwich", if you like), and for that reason hinge remainders or paper adhesions seriously reduce its efficiency.

The detector is small, compact and easily portable, and is clean, dry and convenient to use. Given reasonable care (especially as regards the all-important sachet) it should provide long and trouble-free service.

There is an additional facility included with the kit. If desired for any reason, permanent prints of watermarks can be made. These involve the use of a special ink which, although quick-drying, does introduce a wet process, and obviously extra care is required to avoid contact of ink and stamps.

The price of the complete kit is £9, and we shall gladly arrange for one to be supplied to any interested reader on receipt of the post-paid price of £9.30.

Thus far, this note may have sounded like a "commercial". In practice, it is always infinitely preferable not to have to wrestle with watermarks, if it can be avoided. And those who have taken the trouble to acquire the necessary knowledge — e.g. by intelligent use of the information contained in our specialised N.Z. Catalogue — will know that the necessity for identifying watermarks does not arise all that often as far as N.Z. stamps are concerned. Certainly to the uninitiated, watermarks may frequently appear to be the only means of separating different issues of the same stamp, but there are almost invariably other simpler and more dependable differentiating factors. Obvious examples occur widely in the Second Sidefaces and Second Pictorials, for instance, where issues which are evidently identical in all respects except watermark can in fact be readily separated by reference to the mesh of the paper alone.

Nevertheless, there are undoubtedly occasions when it is important to be able to discern a watermark, and I feel sure that the "Morley-Bright" would prove to be a very useful addition to any philatelic 'armoury'.

STAMPEX 1979

Our impression of this annual national exhibition this year was that good New Zealand material was even more conspicuous by its absence from the dealers' stands than usual. Exhibits, too, seemed to be rather fewer than in recent years, but this certainly does not reflect the continuing increasing collector interest in the country.

The following are to be congratulated on their entries and awards (we gather that the judging was particularly severe this year — no doubt higher standards were set whether consciously or unconsciously with 'London 1980' in mind):

Bronze-Silver Medals. A.E. Harrad (K.G.V.); M.D. Jackson (Junior Class up to 18 years — 2/- Capt Cook); A.G.G. Riley (K.G.V.).

Bronze Medals. D. Churchill (1d Universals), D.S. Hague (1d Field Marshal); A.B. Johnstone (½d Newspaper); J.A.W. Smith (K.G.V.).

Diploma. P. Marks (1970 Pictorials).

N.Z. LITERATURE

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|-----|---|--------|
| 401 | <p>"The Postage Stamps of New Zealand", Volume 2. A copy in superb condition, complete with the specially printed colour die proofs of all six Chalon Head values. Sets of these proofs, removed from the book and offered separately, have alone commanded prices considerably higher than our price for the intact Volume (post paid)</p> | £70.00 |
| 402 | <p>"The Postage Stamps of New Zealand", Volume 6. The latest of the series, published 1977 and covering the period since 1960, as well as detailing much new information about earlier issues. The entire limited edition of 1000 copies has, we understand, already been sold by the publishers. Volume 6, in new condition, post paid</p> | £35.00 |
| 403 | <p>Campbell Paterson's Catalogue of New Zealand Stamps. The standard daily reference work for all N.Z. collectors throughout the world. Far, far more than just a catalogue — a more adequate description would be a fully-priced collector's handbook. The loose-leaf format gives the user unique freedom of</p> | |

	arrangement to suit his own collection interests and, more important, allows regular and thorough up-dating by means of annually-published Supplements. The C.P. Catalogue, now including full-colour plates (and with many more to follow in future Supplements). Price, post paid	£17.75
404	N.Z. Postal Stationery Catalogue, Part 2. by R.D.Samuel. The 1976 publication covering letter-cards. Price, post paid	£3.75
405	N.Z. Postal Stationery Catalogue, Part 3, by the same author. Published in 1978, this volume deals exhaustively with registered envelopes, newspaper wrappers, P.O.W. aerogrammes, etc. Price, post paid	£3.75
406	New Zealand Post Offices, by R.M. Startup. The very much enlarged and updated edition of 1977 (limited to 1000 copies). 240 pages, with about 8000 separate entries, detailing opening/closing dates, locations, changes of name, etc., of all known N.Z. post offices. Essential reference book. Price, post paid	£12.50

DECIMAL CURRENCY ARMS TYPES

An unusually comprehensive listing, and at favourable prices, too!

(i) Line perf., wmk W8b.

407	Set of 4, \$4 - \$10. Superb mint or finest used, each	£50.00
408(a)	\$4 Purple. Finest mint single (Cat. £12)	£8.50
	(b) As above. Block of 4, perfect unmounted	£32.50
	(c) As above. Single copy, superb used (Cat. £12)	£8.50
	(d) As above. Used block of 4, central c.d.s.. Magnificent	£32.50
409(a)	\$6 Green. Mint copy, superfine (Cat. £15)	£10.00
	(b) As above. Brilliant mint block of 4	£40.00
	(c) As above. Superb used single (Cat. £15)	£10.00
	(d) As above. Superfine used block, central c.d.s.	£40.00
410	\$8 Light Blue. Finest mint copy (Cat. £18)	£12.50
411(a)	\$10 Indigo Blue. Single stamp, finest mint (Cat. £30)	£20.00
	(b) As above. Superb used (Cat. £30)	£20.00

(ii) Comb perf., wmk W8a.

412(a)	Set of 4, \$4 - \$10..Brilliant mint (all marginal), or superb used, each set	£24.00
	(b) As above. but in matching corner blocks of 4, perfect mint	£100.00

413(a)	£4 Purple. Single copy, superfine mint (Cat £4.75)	£3.50
	(b) As above. but fine used (Cat. £4.75)	£3.50
414(a)	£6 Green. Superb mint single (Cat. £7.20)	£5.25
	(b) As above. but finest used (Cat. £7.20)	£5.25
	(c) As above. Superfine used block of 4	£20.00
	(d) As above. Magnificent used block of 10 (5x2). Multiples of this size and quality are seldom seen	£50.00
415(a)	£8 Light Blue. Mint single finest condition (Cat. £9.50)	£7.00
	(b) As above. Superfine used copy (Cat. £9.50)	£7.00
416(a)	£10 Indigo Blue. Superb mint copy (Cat. £12)	£8.75
	(b) As above. but superfine used (Cat. £12)	£8.75
	(c) As above. Superb used block of 4	£32.50
	(d) As above. Glorious used block of 8. Very scarce multiple	£65.00

MORE 1D DOMINIONS

Following our offers of the Litho watermarks last month, we now list most of the other issues in some depth.

417(a)	De La Rue Chalky Paper (J1a). Two fine shades of bright and dull carmine. Mint .	£1.20
	(b) As above. Mint example with the R5/24 Broken Globe variety (J1aP)	£4.50
	(c) As above. Set of three used, showing the Catalogued "Feather" (R3/1), Broken Globe (R5/24) and "Q" (R10/19) flaws. The first two are from plate 12, and are found in all issues of the 1d Dominion, while the last is from plate 13, which was used only during the currency of the J1a (and JO1a). The flaw set, used	£8.00
418(a)	Jones Paper (J2a). Single stamp, superfine mint, and quite scarce	£2.40
	(b) As above. Block of 4, superfine mint	£10.00
	(c) As above. Set of two mint blocks of 4 in contrasting shades, and on paper of notably different thickness	£20.00
	(d) As above. Mint single with Broken Globe flaw (J2aW)	£6.00
	(e) As above. The elusive Watermark Inverted variety (J2aY), in used single	£9.00

419(a)	De La Rue Thin Unsurfaced Paper (J3a). Instantly recognisable by its prominent watermark and its distinctive deep dull colour. Yet we frequently see all sorts of things misidentified as J3a, underlining the fact that the real thing is genuinely very scarce. Our copies are of course guaranteed. Single copy, superb mint	£9.00
(b)	As above. Brilliant mint block of 4	£37.50
420(a)	De La Rue Chalky Paper, Sideways Wmk (J4a). Single mint	45p
(b)	As above. Superfine mint block of 4	£2.00
(c)	As above. Set of three stamps, one with normal wmk (W7a), one with inverted wmk (W7b), and one with complete letter wmk	£3.25
421(a)	Cowan Paper, Reversed Wmk (J7a). Single stamp, mint	£4.75
(b)	As above. Mint block of 4, superb	£20.00
422(a)	Wiggins Teape Paper (J8a). Single mint	£6.00
(b)	As above. Set of two top marginal copies, one on the typical thin very hard paper the other on the thicker softer paper (J8aY). Very contrasting	£15.00
(c)	As above. Variety watermark inverted (J8aZ), mint	£12.00
(d)	As above. Two fine mint pairs, showing the Broken Globe and Feather flaws respectively, each in pair with a normal stamp. Scarce on this paper. The two variety pairs (J8aW and V)	£40.00

MISCELLANY

423	First Sideface 2/- A very good mint copy with variety Double Perforations (C7aZ). This must be one of the greatest rarities among all N.Z. stamps – according to Volume 2 of the Handbook: "Two mint copies have been found one of these copies is in the collection of Sir R. Heaton Rhodes". The rare variety	£285.00
424	First Sideface 5/- Mint copy overprinted SPECIMEN in violet. Design a little off-centre, and slight surface damage, but attractive, and rare. The 5/- presentation copy	£60.00
425	First Pictorial 2d London Print (E5a). Corner block of 4 from bottom left of sheet. Hinged but fine. Scarce – especially in block	£30.00
426	First Pictorial 4d Lake Taupo. Fresh mint block of 4, perf. 11 wmk'd (E12b)	£17.50
427	King Edward VII Used. An unusual and most attractive lot, consisting entirely of used multiples. Includes ½d (block of 4 and two pairs), 2d (two strips of 3 in magnificent shades), 3d (strip of 4), 4d orange (pair and strip of 4), 4d Yellow (pair), 5d (three pairs), 6d (two pairs), 8d (pair and two strips of 3), 1/- (two pairs). All items differ in either shade or perf, or both. Will mount up into a delightful display. The 48 'Edwards'	£55.00

428(a)	King Edward VII 3d. Top marginal block of 4, perf. 14x14½ (H3a) in bistre-brown. Superfine mint unhinged	£24.00
(b)	As above. A similar block, also top marginal, but in the scarce perf. 14x13½ (H3c), and in the warmer chestnut shade. Again unmounted mint, and rare in this condition	£125.00
429(a)	K.E.VII Officials. Simplified set of the recess-printed values (3d, 6d, 8d, 1/-), well-centred and brilliant mint unmounted. Rare thus. The set of 4 Officials	£62.50
(b)	As above. 6d value (HO6b), mint block of 4, superfine	£36.00
(c)	As above. 8d value, two-perfs se-tenant (HO7d). Superlative block of 4, in the most glorious shade of deep bright blue that we have ever seen. Unhinged mint ..	£90.00
(d)	As above. Fine used copy of the 8d, perf. 14x14½, with variety Inverted watermark (HO7bZ)	£6.00
(e)	As above. 1/- value (HO8b). Beautiful mint unmounted block of 4 in a full deep vermilion shade. Tiny corner crease on one stamp does not affect magnificent appearance	£165.00
430	K.G.V. 2d Yellow. A complete sheet of 120 stamps on 'Pictorial' paper (K2g), in really splendid condition (once folded). Large multiples of the recess prints are seldom seen now, and for the research student with even half an eye on investment, this has obvious possibilities. As usual with the Pictorial paper, most of the plate number has been guillotined off, but for the record, the sheet is from plate 16, The complete sheet, Cat. £240 as single stamps, offered at	£212.50
431	1d Field Marshal. A lovely set of six blocks of 4, covering all the main issues. Includes perf. 14 Cowan (K15a) three good shade blocks; perf. 14x15 Cowan (K15b); perf. 14x15 Cowan reversed wmk (K15c) marginal block in rose-carmine; and perf. 14 Wiggins Teape (K15d) block on the distinctly thicker paper. The representative set of blocks, condition finest mint – will make a super page	£42.50
432	Second Pictorial 3/-. A mint corner copy from the tiny experimental printing with watermark inverted-and-reversed (L14c) – far and away the scarcest of all the Second Pictorials (only 3000 stamps ever printed). The example here offered could not be bettered, being brilliantly fresh unhinged. For the astute collector who recognises something good when he sees it, the rare 3/-, with no apology at all for the price of	£150.00
433	1960 Pictorial 5d. Imprint block of 6 stamps with variety Complete Double Perforations at left (O7aY). Superb variety, finest mint	£25.00
434(a)	1960 Pictorial 9d. A lovely example of the major error Red Colour Omitted (O11aZ), in mint pair. One stamp has total omission of the red, its neighbour having a partial omission from the Union Jack part of the flag. The scarce variety pair, unmounted (Cat £100+ for the complete omission only).	£75.00
(b)	As above. Perfect mint plate block (of six stamps) with plate nos 14A15. This is without any question the rarest of all the 1960 Pictorial plate numbers, the new blue plate 15 having apparently been used for only a very small printing late in the life of the issue. The rare plate block (Cat. £100+)	£85.00

- 435(a) 1960 Pictorial 1/-. Top marginal block of 4, the upper pair of stamps with complete double perforations at top and sides (O12aY). As in the case of the 5d offered above, this is an exceptionally fine example of double perfs. The block (Cat.£30) mint unhinged £25.00
- (b) As above. A downward misplacement of the brown colour, quite minor in extent (about 1½mm), but very noticeable in its effect – and incidentally resulting in the design being that much taller than normal. An attractive little variety, and cheap at, mint single £1.25, or block of 4 at £5.00
- 436(a) 1967 Pictorial 3c. Block of 6 (3x2) with left selvedge, with variety Double Perforations – in this case a complete extra strike of the double comb head (OD5aV), thus two stamps show double perfs all round, and a further two have the doubling on three sides. Superfine mint £18.00
- (b) As above. Another block of 6 (from top right corner, with sheet value), this one with the major variety Two Stamps Partly Imperf (OD5aY), the result of the complete omission of the rightmost strike of the comb head. Rare, and an unusual type of variety in modern N.Z. stamps £21.00
- 437 1970 Pictorial 2c. Superb mint copy on unwmk'd paper (blue gum) with major error Black Colour Omitted. One of the most striking and attractive of missing colours, the words "New Zealand" and all the outlines of the moth being absent £75.00
- 438(a) Christchurch Exhibition 3d. In mint this value is, relatively speaking, quite common. In fine used, as here, it is very much underrated. The used 3d (c.d.s. cancel) £75.00
- (b) As above. Another copy, cancelled with a perfect central strike of the Exhibition c.d.s. A little staining unfortunately shows slightly on the face, but detracts little from the superb appearance £32.50
- 439(a) 1920 Victory. Complete set of all values to 1/- (incl. the 2d overprint), and with additional fine shades of the ½d and 1d. Take our advice, and buy now, before the 'Victories' do a 'Christchurch' or an 'Auckland'. The set of 9, finest mint £42.50
- (b) As above. The listed shades of the 3d value, chocolate and deep chocolate, fine mint £18.00
- (c) As above. The same two shades, but fine used (c.d.s.) £15.00
- (d) As above. Three lovely mint shades of the 6d – bright purple, deep bright purple and pale purple, again as Catalogued £47.50
- (e) As above. The same three 6d shades, all fine used with c.d.s. £37.50
- 440(a) 1d Map. A very fine specialist lot, on three album leaves, of this ordinary-looking but philatelically interesting little stamp (see Vol. 4 of the Handbook, pp.197-203, for further details). Excellent coverage on all three papers, each having a page to itself. The 'De La Rue' issues are represented by 29 stamps, including blocks of 10, 6 and 4, the 'Jones' by 18 stamps, incl. a block of 4, a strip of 3, and three pairs; and the scarce 'Cowans' by 17 stamps, incl. blocks of 6, 4(2) and a pair. A feature is the presence of no less than eight top selvedge pieces showing (a) no selvedge bars; (b) "spaced" selvedge bars; and (c) 'stamp-wide' selvedge

bars. Of these (a) and (b) occurred only on De La Rue paper, (c) on all three papers, and all possible forms are included here. Numerous varieties are also shown, some of them quite major. The all-mint collection of 64 'Map' stamps, seldom seen in this profusion, offered at well below Catalogue £125.00

(b) **As above.** A mint block of 42 (7x6) from the bottom right corner of a sheet printed from plate 2, and thus including several of the recorded flaws. This stamp cries out for further study, and blocks of this size (unfortunately very scarce nowadays) provide a superb opportunity. A few splitting perfs, otherwise beautiful condition £10.00

441 1931 Healths. A superb used pair of the Smiling Boys (and we really do mean superb). Both values are cancelled almost identically with a clear part strike of a neat Wellington c.d.s., and the portion of the date falling on each of the stamps (31 OC) makes it virtually certain that the cancels are from the first day of issue. We wonder what fool removed the stamps from their original cover. Whoever it was at least slashed the price, and provided someone with a used set that is sheer perfection at £150.00

442(a) 1959 Health 3d + 1d. The well-known "White Legs" variety (T31bZ), resulting from complete omission of the red colour. This example is **fine commercially used**, and as such very much scarcer than mint. Cat. \$200, a real snip at £47.50

(b) **As above.** Mint copy with variety Watermark Inverted (T31bY). Quite elusive now £7.50

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RECENT ISSUES

N.Z. Statesmen (issued 7/2/79), three different 10c values se-tenant. Mint se-tenant strip of 3 27p

Complete set of 2 Imprint/plate blocks (two se-tenant strips in each block) £1.20

One Imprint/plate block 60p

Official Illustrated F.D.C. (Wanganui pmk) 35p

10c Queen in Frame, new perforation 14¼x14½ and from new plates. The original 6, 7c and 8c Rose stamps were in this perf., but later changed to 14¼x13¾ thus falling into line with the remainder of the Roses values and the 10c Queen in frame stamp. This perforation change on the 10c, therefore, is something of a surprise.

Mint or used single, each 10p

Mint block of 4 40p

Imprint/plate blocks (10 stamps each block) with new plate nos 3A2A2A2A2A or 3B2B2B2B2B, each block £1.00

Sheet Value block of 10 stamps (from Pl. 3B2B) with R2/6 "bruise on forehead" (constant). A very attractive naked-eye variety! £1.25