

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



PUBLISHED BY CAMPBELL PATERSON LTD.

P. O. Box 17, 3a Oriental Road, Woking, Surrey.

ISSUED MONTHLY. ☎ WOKING 5887.

All lots offered on approval subject to being unsold.

VOLUME IX

NUMBER 4

NOVEMBER 1971

N. Z. NOTES & COMMENT

by Campbell Paterson

4d Violet George V

In my recent article on the 4d George V I suggested that a 1926 (early) printing from Plate 44 had been made with the self-same ink as the late (worn plate) printings from Plate 20, in the same year. Since then I have been through an accumulation of the perf 14 x 14½ 4d Official. Those I had available for study yielded a small number of stamps in the listed "deep violet" shade. This shade, which I cannot ever recall seeing exactly the same in Plate 44 ordinary prints, is not only "deep", but really surprisingly "bright", with more than a suggestion of red in the ink. Certainly it is notably different from the usual deep purple of the normal (Plate 44) 4d Official perf 14 x 14½. I would agree that the deep bright violet Official is somewhat similar (though redder) to the "ordinary" pair that occasioned my recent article. It may be that if, as I maintain, there was an early printing from Plate 44 in the shade hitherto associated with Plate 20, then the Plate 44 bright reddish violet "Officials" may be from the same period and may indicate that the printing was quite large, but was mainly absorbed by the Government Printer's using them to fill a large requisition for "Officials". Relatively few may have been issued in "ordinary" form. We saw a similar happening in 1941 when the 4d Mitre Peak "perf 14 line" appeared quite commonly with Official overprint, but remained quite rare in "ordinary" form. Still, this is largely surmise.

To sum up, one can say that there was a bright violet early issue (of the 4d George V Official from Plate 44) and this was recorded both in the Handbook and in our Catalogue - but the Handbook is silent on the subject of any "ordinary" Plate 44 issue in a "Plate 20" violet shade. It is this that I have been trying to establish as a definite issue, hitherto overlooked.

As a footnote I would call attention to the first of the variety lots offered below - it contains a pair and a single of the bright violet "Official" 4d, these stamps all having clearly identifiable Plate 44 characteristics.

POSTSCRIPT by Colin Hamilton.

Footnotes are to be inevitable, it seems, in this matter of the K. G. V. 4d. the explanation is that (for simple geographical reasons) Mr Paterson and myself have been pursuing entirely separate and independent lines of investigation, and each of us is reporting any findings accordingly.

Since last month's report, Mr R. D. Tweed of Ringwood has shown me a plate block from Plate 44 (without the Official overprint) which is certainly not in the accepted normal deep purple shade - to kill any possible doubt about this Mr Tweed produced a "purple" plate block too!

The non-purple block, although showing similar lack of plate wear characteristics, does not match the shade of the pair which was the starting point of our inquiries, being in an altogether deeper, richer violet. It is quite possible that this is the same shade as that found by Mr Paterson in a few perf 14 x 14½ Officials he has examined (see above) - certainly it is very similar to the shade of a block of Plate 44 Officials in our Woking stocks.

In any case we now have clear evidence of at least two quite separate early printings from Plate 44 in shades other than deep purple, and issued without the Official overprint. In the continued absence of further examples of these, I think both must be considered very rare.

THE 1d KIWI - BOOKLET PLATE RE-ENTRIES by P. L. Evans

The note by C. P. in the August Bulletin refers to a very puzzling matter.

The Handbook Vol. IV page 90 asserts that the Die 1 transfer roller was not used for the re-entries in question but then goes on to particularise effects in R1/3 and R1/18 which indicate most strongly that the Die 1 relief MUST have been used for the job, giving visible results which could have been obtained in no other way.

The statement that "... the records contain a certificate that the die 1 transfer roller have been destroyed." is positive but, in my view not very convincing in the absence of circumstantial details. By whom and to whom was the certificate issued and on what date?

The latter question is particularly cogent because there was a good deal of confusion about the hardware for this stamp. The Handbook Vol. I says that one original die and two subsidiary dies were made, Vol. II refers to three dies, Vol. IV adds nothing. In fact, there were only two dies, Die 2 being Die 1 retouched.

It is no discredit to the writers of Vol. I that they were not aware of this. For one thing it was a surprising happening in the circumstances, which were that De La Rue were not happy with the first plates and printings and asked permission to try the effect of deepening the engraving. The original die had been hardened and a transfer relief, also hardened, was in existence. The customary procedure would have been to roll an impression into steel for the engraver to work on - to make a subsidiary die, as the Vol. I writers assumed to be the case.

Evidently the same assumption was made by another knowledgeable person. A letter dated 25th November 1935 from De La Rue to the High Commissioner says, over the signature of the Managing Director, Mr B. C. Westall:

"... the writer (i.e. Mr Westall) was wrong in saying that a second die had been prepared for the booklets... the first die was deepened before the printing plate for the booklets was made."

Here we have the firm's Managing Director - the Top Man himself, no less - put into the position of having to eat his words; surely this argues that it was a very unusual occurrence to mess about with the original die, especially that of a current stamp for which new orders were confidently expected and new plates required.

The great mystery is the "who and why" of the decision to take so unusual a course - the hazard of heat-treating the die to soften it for retouching. No doubt Mr Westall demanded answers to these questions but so far as I have heard they were not recorded for us.

The Handbook Vol. IV writer might claim that the situation arose because the Die 1 relief roller had already been destroyed. It is clearly improbable that the roller would have been scrapped deliberately so early in the life of the issue but there is always the possibility that it was damaged by accident, or even that it broke up in the attempt to make a subsidiary die for the deepening experiment.

But in that case, where did the Die 3 plates come from? One thing is certain; Die 3 was emphatically not a subsidiary from Die 2 - the deepened original die. Its character is so much like Die 1 and so remote from Die 2 that it can only have been a subsidiary from Die 1 before deepening, which means that a Die 1 transfer roller still existed when the Die 3 plates were put in hand, early in 1936.

According to the assertion in Vol. IV this Die 1 roller was destroyed sometime between the making of Die 3 and July or August of the following year when the re-entries were made. The printers usually took extreme care to preserve platemaking hardware and as the original die had been ruined by the unsatisfactory deepening, it seems incredible that they would destroy the only remaining article from the engraving unless they had specific instructions from the High Commissioner or his principals in Wellington. I have never heard of any evidence of such instructions.

With all the respect due to the investigators and writers who did such a magnificent job to provide us with the Handbooks, personally I take leave to accept the C. P. Catalogue footnote in preference to the Vol. IV assertion - at least until someone has re-examined the "certificate" and quoted details in support of its credibility.

KING GEORGE V VARIETY OFFERS

- 1101(a) 4d Official. An outstanding lot, all used. Includes a pair in bright deep violet, one stamp being the major re-entry R3/8 (illustrated in our Catalogue); plus another bright deep violet stamp with malformed (retouched) cross on crown, being R5/8. Then in the deep purple we again have R3/8 and R5/8 (this latter is pair), and R10/12, the other major re-entry illustrated in the C. P. Catalogue; also R4/7 showing the best example of the malformed "cross on crown", and R4/6 and R4/8, both excellent retouches to cross and/or corners. The lot (notable for the inclusion of three bright violets alone!), 10 stamps £4.50
- (b) 4d Official. The fine re-entry R3/8 in deep purple plus the excellent retouch R5/8 in both the deep bright violet and deep purple colours. The set of three £2.00
- (c) 4d Official. Again the excellent R5/8 retouch (to cross on crown as well as to right top corner), in the deep purple 25p
- 1102 4d George V. A vertical mint pair of the ordinary (non- Official) issue, the lower stamp showing characteristics somewhat similar to the little-known re-entry of R10/9; also an Official 4d with the R10/9 re-entry. All stamps are in deep purple. (the two re-entries are similar but not identical - the mint pair not being identified). The lot £1.50

- 1103 ½d Green George V. - Slot Machine Stamps. Contains: a strip of four of the ½d War Stamp, mint, with very scarce coil join; a single mint of the ½d De La Rue with coil starter tab attached; finally a pair of the ½d De La Rue with very heavy brown gum - on the writer's own experience these were sold in Auckland slot machines. The gum is probably double. Some slight foxing affects these pieces. The lot £2.50
- 1104(a) ½d Green George V - Worn Plate. Two used strips of three (in different shades), each strip showing extreme plate wear at the top - little definition remaining. The two strips (both K013e) 50p
- (b) ½d Green, as above. Similar to the previous lot, but a pair only, used 30p
- 1105 George V - Pot-pourri. A mixed but interesting lot. Comprises: a beautiful used two-perf vertical pair of the 3d George Official (K04c); a single used (creased) of the 3d Official K019c with the "face flaw"; used singles of the 9d (K11a and K11b) with beautifully clear strikes of the postmarks "Mullet Point" and "Granity"; a pair of George 2d (K 18b) on Jones Paper with crystal clear date of Palmerston Nth 28 May 1925; a mystery pair of the 2d (K18d) with circular postmark "Palmerston/North" (in two lines) with "Delivery" under the date (1926 or 1928?); finally a strip of three of the ½d (K13a) with none-too-clear, but readable, "T. P. O. Main Trunk Wellington" postmark. The pleasantly different lot £4.00
- 1106 1d Universal Booklet Pane. A mint pane of G7a - previously hinged and without binding selvedge, but very handsome. Top right stamp has re-entry and (for the specialist!) this is Pane No. 5. The pane with re-entry and lovely fresh bright colour £7.50

MORE 1d UNIVERSALS

Here is a fine opportunity (all too infrequent, these days) to obtain some high class material on this, the favourite stamp of so many specialists.

- 1107(a) London Prints (G1a). A really breathtaking array of mint blocks, ranging in shade from the palest of pale carmine-reds to the richest, fullest colour we can recall seeing in a London (an issue not especially noted for marked shade variations). The palest block of all includes two re-entries, one of which is the magnificent R7/7 (naked-eye doubling here). Another block shows one re-entry. The five shade blocks of 4, including three re-entries, all identified. Condition superb £3.75
- (b) As above. A fine mint block of 8 (4 x 2), well centred 55p
- 1108(a) Pirie Paper, perf 11(G2a). A lovely pair showing the scarce variety imperf vertically. Previously hinged, but otherwise impeccable mint £15.00
- (b) As above, perf 14(G2b). A scarce stamp, not easy to find even in singles - our offer is of a mint block of 4, very fresh £5.00
- (c) As above. Another beautiful mint block of 4, perf 14 (with left selvedge), one stamp being the R1/1 re-entry from Plate 2. Complete with enlarged illustration for write-up £7.25

- 1109 Basted Mills. As is well known, issues on B. M. paper are found with all possible variations of the upright double-lined NZ and Star watermark, i.e. normal, inverted, reversed, and inverted-and-reversed. We can offer the following:
- (a) Perf 14(G3b). Set of four used, showing all four variations of the watermark. The complete and unusual set 50p
- (b) Perf 11 x 14(G3c). The same coverage as above. The set of four, used 75p
- (c) One set only. The four wmk variations as above in each of the perf 14, perf 11 x 14 and perf 14 x 11 issues. The splendidly thorough lot of 12 stamps, all used..... £2.25
- 1110 Basted Mills, perf 14(G3b). A mint block of 10 (5 x 2) with bottom selvedge. An old fold affects the upper five stamps, but does not detract from the fine appearance of the block. Good buying at £2.00
- 1111(a) Basted Mills, perf 11 x 14 (G3c). Three good shades, displayed to full advantage in two blocks of 6 and one block of 4. Any slight off-centring (the rule rather than the exception in this stamp) is allowed for in the price at, the three blocks £3.50
- (b) As above. Set of four mint blocks of four, no less than three having a fully identified re-entry. Centring on all is first class, condition likewise. A wonderful page in the making. The four blocks £7.00
- 1112 Basted Mills, perf 14 x 11(G3d). Again a mint block (of six), again with one stamp showing re-entry, fully identified, again condition tops (if the material wasn't so desirable, it would be monotonous!) £3.75
- 1113(a) Cowan Unwatermarked, perf 14 x 11(G4c). A mint single £5.00
- (b) As above. A used pair. One stamp has a blue crayon mark, doubtless because the stamps were used on a registered packet. The scarce used pair £6.00
- 1114 "Local" Plates Prints, perf 14 x 11 (G5d). Another scarce issue. Offered in mint single at £8, or a fine mint pair at..... £15.00
- 1115 Waterlow Trial Plates, perf 14 (G9a). A beautiful example of the variety "pair, imperf vertically". This pair was printed from Plate W2 (the right-hand stamp shows clear retouching of the rosette at top left, typical of this plate). The variety pair, mint. £15.00
- 1116 Waterlow Trial Plates, mixed perfs (G9e). A mint pair (one stamp has minor faults), showing a faulty vertical row of perfs officially patched and reperfed by a line head gauging 11. This pair is stated by the previous owner to be "ex-Fathers and Lee". The rare pair (cat. £60 as singles) £40.00

KING EDWARD VII USED

Our offers of this material a couple of months ago were swiftly snapped up (as we knew they would be). Much sooner than even the most optimistic of us could have hoped, we can again offer some similar lots. All stamps are superior, selected copies.

- 1117 ½d Green (H1a). The three catalogued shades of yellow-green, green and deep green. Lovely! 10p

- 1118 2d Mauve (H2a). Mauve, deep mauve, rosy mauve and pale rosy mauve. Four fine contrasting shades, again complete per the C. P. listing £1.60
- 1119 3d Chestnut, perf 14 x 14½(H3a). Chestnut, deep chestnut and bistre-brown. The three, superfine used 25p
- 1120 4d "Oranges and Lemons". A single of the line perf 14 Orange(H4b) complemented by two shades of the perf 14 x 14½ Yellow. Very attractive, the three £2.25
- 1121 5d Brown. Two super shades - deep brown and deep red-brown - in each of the perf 14 line (H5a) and perf 14 x 14½ (H5b) issues. The four £1.25
- 1122 6d Carmine perf 14 x 14½(H6b). Two glowing shades 15p
- 1123 8d Indigo-blue, perf 14 x 14½ (H7b). Again two fine contrasting shades 20p
- 1124 1/- Orange-vermilion. One copy with line perf 14 (H8a), and two superb shades perf 14 x 14½(H8b). A really outstanding set of three £2.65
- 1125 Perf 14 x 14½ Collection. Absolutely complete, all values and all listed shades, with the one exception of the "impossible" 4d Ochre-yellow. 18 stamps, finest used... £6.25

RECENT ISSUES

- 6th Oct, 1971. Christmas 3c Maratta's "The Holy Night", 4c Stained glass window (St Luke's Anglican Church, Havelock North), 10c Symbolic design. Set of 3, mint 13p
F. D. C. , Auckland postmark 17p

Covers

- 1st Sept., 1971 25c, 30c, 50c National Parks definitives. The three values on one illustrated F. D. C. 80p
- 4th Sept., 1971 R. T. P. O. Final Trip. Set of three covers with special cancellations commemorating the last journey of the Wellington-Auckland-Wellington Railway Travelling Post Office. (There are now no R. T. P. O. s left running in N. Z.) The three historic covers 25p
- 16th Sept., 1971 Opening of New Post Office, Upper Hutt. Special cancellation on cover .. 10p