

NEW ZEALAND POSTAGE STAMPS ERRORS AND VARIETIES

NEW ZEALAND 1977 HEALTH 'CHILDREN IN THE WOODS' PLATING

Illustrating a plating exercise for the 1977 Health Stamps.

By Terry Hancox



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The New Zealand Society of Great Britain

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1933 Health Stamp "Pathway", Plating
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1958 Health Brigade Children, Plating
1959 Health Tete and Poaka, Plating
1959 Centenary of the Red Cross, Plating
1964 Health Tarapunga and Korora, Plating
1965 Health Kaka and Piwakawaka, Plating
1970 2½c Magpie Moth and 1971 4c on 2½c Provisionals
1975 Pictorials
1977 Health 'Children in the Woods', plating

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INTRODUCTION

The 1977 Health stamps hold special significance for me. They were the first new issue of stamps to be posted through my front door soon after I realised that I could order new issues directly from the Post Office at face value (plus postage). I was eagerly looking forward to receiving them and they weren't to disappoint.

What also made this issue 'special' to me was the difference in design between the main sheet stamps and the miniature sheet stamps and the way each fitted into a shared landscape. One format was not just a magnification of the other, but a design change.

This 1977 issue is on the cusp of the transition between old and new production methods, retaining the interest from flaws generated by the method used to create the printing plate and the lithographic printing process, and the flawless modern printing techniques using computers. There is still the evidence of human activity here, and with all human activity comes variance. Such variance allows collectors to thrive.

Whilst there is little to excite when looking at the main sheets, the miniature sheets make up for it. Here, nine miniature sheets can be plated into the master sheet by reference to small differences found on each, but the availability of some sheet positions may make it difficult for the collector to complete the nine different plate positions. Some sheets are certainly scarcer than others, perhaps caused by action from the Post Office in using miniature sheets exclusively to make first day covers.

This research attempts to illustrate varieties on both the main sheet and miniature sheets, and helps to plate copies of individual miniature sheets. Some background information is included also, where this will help with an understanding of the production methods and source of varieties.

I hope you find this research useful.

Amend what is wrong and add what is new, for the benefit of collectors to come.

For comment and feedback, email the author at TAHNZstamps@gmail.com

Terry

* * * * *



1977, Children in the Woods

Issued ----- 1977, August 3

The 1977 Health stamps continued the children and animals theme that commenced in 1974, this year featuring a 'woodland scene'. The set was titled '*Faraway Fantasy Tree*', with recognition to Enid Blyton and her story '*The Magic Faraway Tree*'. The designer Allan Derrick wanted 'a fairy-tale setting' for the stamps, with the tree at the centre of the composite design representing the 'private place' that all children have.

The three stamps featured:
 7c+2c Girl and Pigeon.
 8c+2c Boy and Frog.
 10c+2c Girl and Butterfly.

The designs for the three stamps by A. P. Derrick were stylised, typical of the 1970 period, each value standing individually, yet designed to form a larger scene when placed together. This was a first in Health stamps, where the three stamps form a composite scene of children under the boughs of a tree. The publicity brochure (opposite) demonstrates this well, leading with the composite scene followed by individual stamps (albeit in reverse order).

Although the PO brochure attempts to show the composite scene, as would come to be issued in miniature sheets, the illustration leads the viewer to picture a long stamp of three values with no means of separating them into individual units. It is interesting to see that this brochure illustrates the differences in designs between main and miniature sheet well, if border and perforations are disregarded.

Unlike past years, it is possible to differentiate stamps from large sheets and miniature sheets easily. Miniature sheets stamps, although the same overall size, do not have the white border around the design and therefore appear much larger.

Harrison and Sons Ltd won the contract for printing using the lithographic process. Main sheets comprised of two panes of 100 units each arranged in 10 rows of 10 stamps. Miniature sheets comprised six stamps, 2 rows of 3 each forming the composite design.

The paper used was white, without watermark, and had blue gum. Perforations were $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$.



For each value from the main sheets, the panes were arranged side by side, and were labelled for cylinders 1A on the left and 1B on the right.

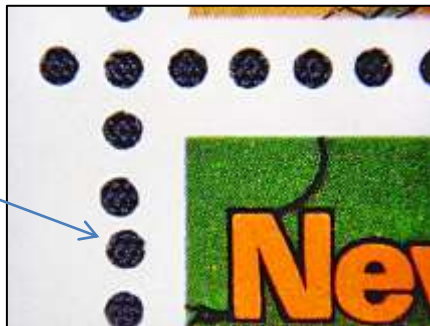


Diagrammatically, the main sheets had the layout as shown opposite, two panes of 100 stamps separated by a central gutter one stamp in width. The panes were perforated, separated and trimmed prior to issue. Individually, the two panes had similar selvage markings, as will be illustrated later.

The perforations were gauge $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$ and were applied by a single comb machine working from the top of the double pane downwards. Thus we have the top selvage of the sheet not perforated through; both side selvages of the double pane with one perf hole extending the horizontal rows of perfs, and the central gutter perforated through.

When separated, the 1A and 1B pane can be differentiated by perf characteristics, without need to use the plate numbers. The 1A sheet will have its left selvage with one perf hole extending the row, and the right selvage perforated through; whereas the 1B pane will have the left selvage perforated through and the right selvage with one perf hole extending the rows.

Misplaced
perf pin



There is a perforation anomaly that affects the 3rd perf pin from the top in the left vertical row of perfs of stamps in column 1. Here, the perf pin is bent slightly top right, so that it appears out of alignment to its neighbours. The gap above the bent pin is reduced, whilst the gap below is widened. It is eye visible as it is set against a straight edge in the design.

This perforation variety is seen on all stamps from column 1 of the panes

labelled 1A, demonstrating the single comb characteristics, and appears on all values from the issue, 7c+2c, 8c+2c and 10c+2c. As it is not present on the 1B panes it also demonstrates perforations were applied to the conjoined sheet prior to separating. Blocks without the bent perf pin on plate 1A may not exist.



Perforation errors are known affecting the 7c+2c stamps only. Here there is an upward shift of the perforations by 7mm such that it encroaches into the stamp above, causing the margin that normally separates the stamp to be seen as a white band across the stamp near the top, with the design that should be at the base of the stamp, now at the top. Where this appears against the top and bottom selvages it appears to generate a short and long stamp respectively (see main sheet errors later).

Smaller perforation shifts are uncommon, but examples from the 7c+2c sheets show the vertical perfs misplaced 1.5mm to the right, not too significant, but seldom seen.



Plate and imprint blocks and printing colours

The plate and imprint details are to be found in the lower selvage below the stamps at row 10/1 to row 10/3. It is normal to collect these positional blocks in blocks of six stamps but on the 7c+2c and 10c+2c (that have the country name and value coloured), the last plate number is very close to the right vertical perfs of row 10/3. It is perhaps wise to collect these in blocks of 8 or 10, to avoid the loss of a plate number due to a small colour shift.

The plate blocks for each value are shown below.

7c+2c



8c+2c



10c+2c



The 7c+2c and 10c+2c stamps are printed in five colours, the normal CMYK (blue, red, yellow and black), plus an orange or light-blue respectively. The latter colour is used exclusively for the country name and value.

The 8c+2c has the country name in white, and is therefore printed using the four basic colours.

There are colour shift seen on both main and miniature sheet (that we will see later), but these shifts distinguish the CMYK colours from the additional orange or light-blue, that leads to the proposal that these additional colours were printed separately from the basic four print colours.

The Harrison Jumelle machine (as used in the Rose definitive stamps of that time) was capable of having additional units attached to cope with multi-colour stamp printing. But from errors seen in placement of the additional colours it suggests that this machine was not used at all or not the way intended.

Health surcharge

Another first for this year saw the health contribution rise from 1c to 2c. Over the previous years, the percentage contribution in comparison to postage rates was reducing. It was 50% when the health stamps were originally put on sale, to around 14% in later years. Increasing the contribution did not appear to deter the public from using health stamps.

Period of sale

The stamps were put on sale on 3 August 1977 and remained on sale at the Philatelic Bureau and at Philatelic Sales Centres until 30 June 1978. The number of stamps printed was:

7c+2c	2m.
8c+2c	2m.
10c+2c	1m.
Miniature Sheets	252,600.

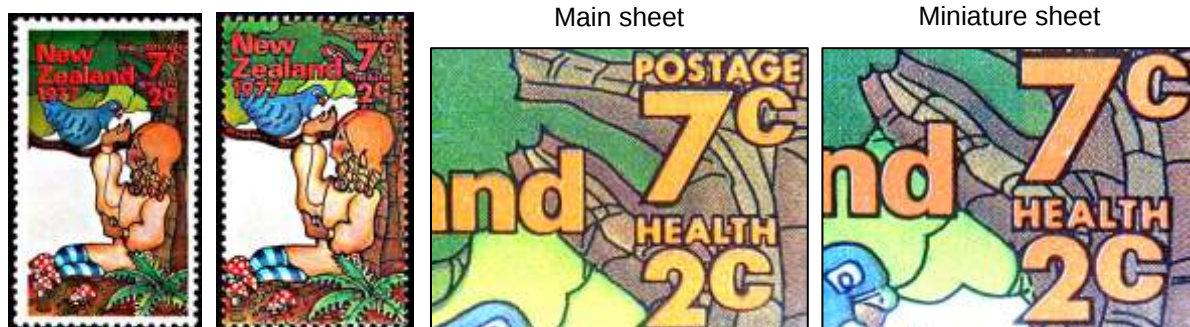
The Stamps

One of the key features of this issue is the design difference between stamps from the main and miniature sheets. To achieve the composite design envisaged for the miniature sheet, the design needed to be enlarged, but that was not so straightforward.

Design differences between main sheet and miniature sheet stamps.

To achieve a composite design the white border around the sheet stamp is eliminated by enlarging the central design of the stamp. However the wording and value are also enlarged, but now taking up a different position at the top of the stamp. This is true for all three values. The diagrams below show the same position on main sheet stamps (left) and miniature sheet stamps (right) at the same scale.

7c+2c Girl and Pigeon



The wording is larger. And its position on the stamp moved downwards, so that the pigeon's head is closer to the 'nd' of 'land' and now alongside the '2c'.

8c+2c Boy and Frog



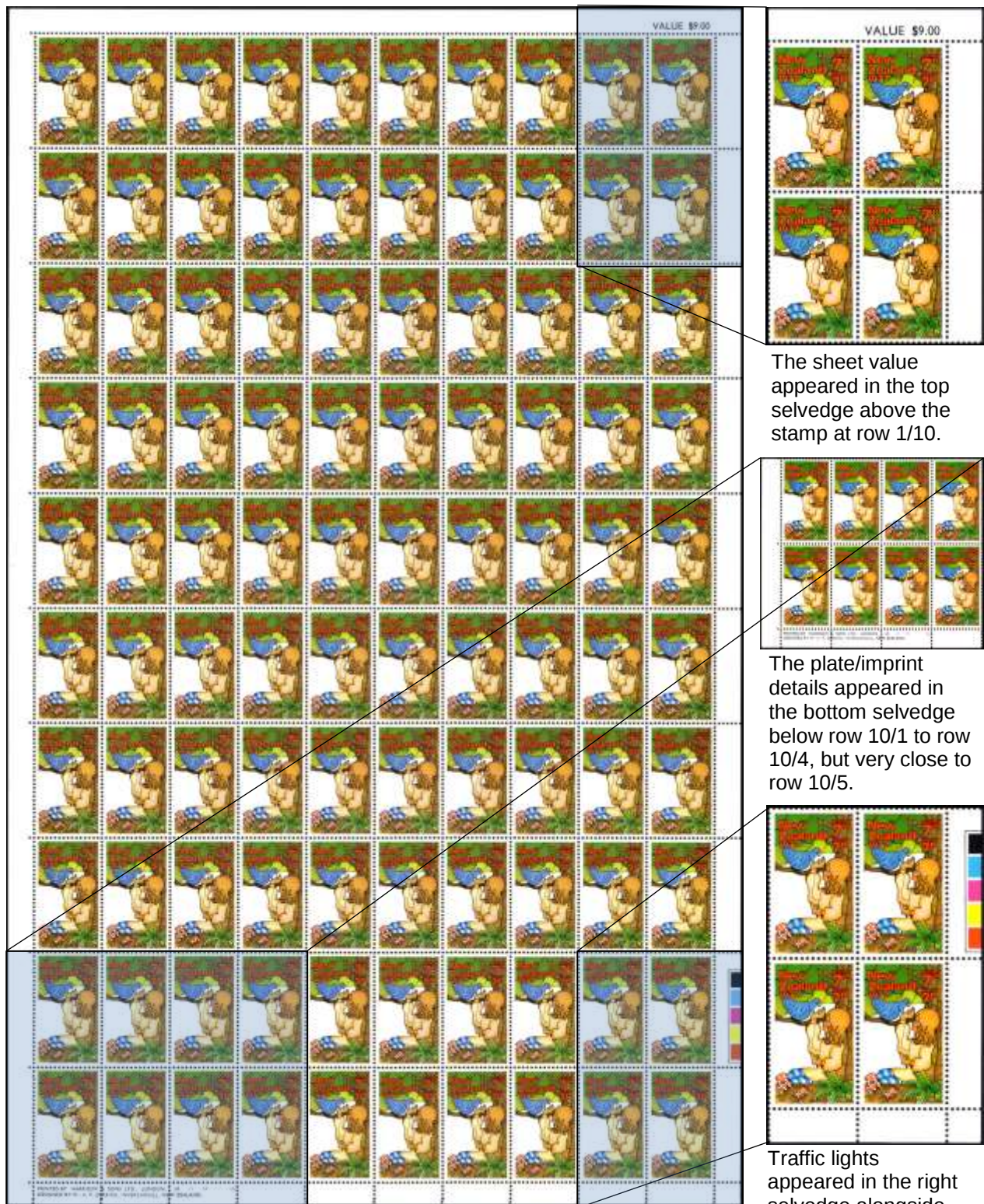
On the miniature sheet stamp (on the right) the wording is lowered and now appears close to the base of the leaves, and lower in comparison to the branch.

10c+2c Girl and Butterfly

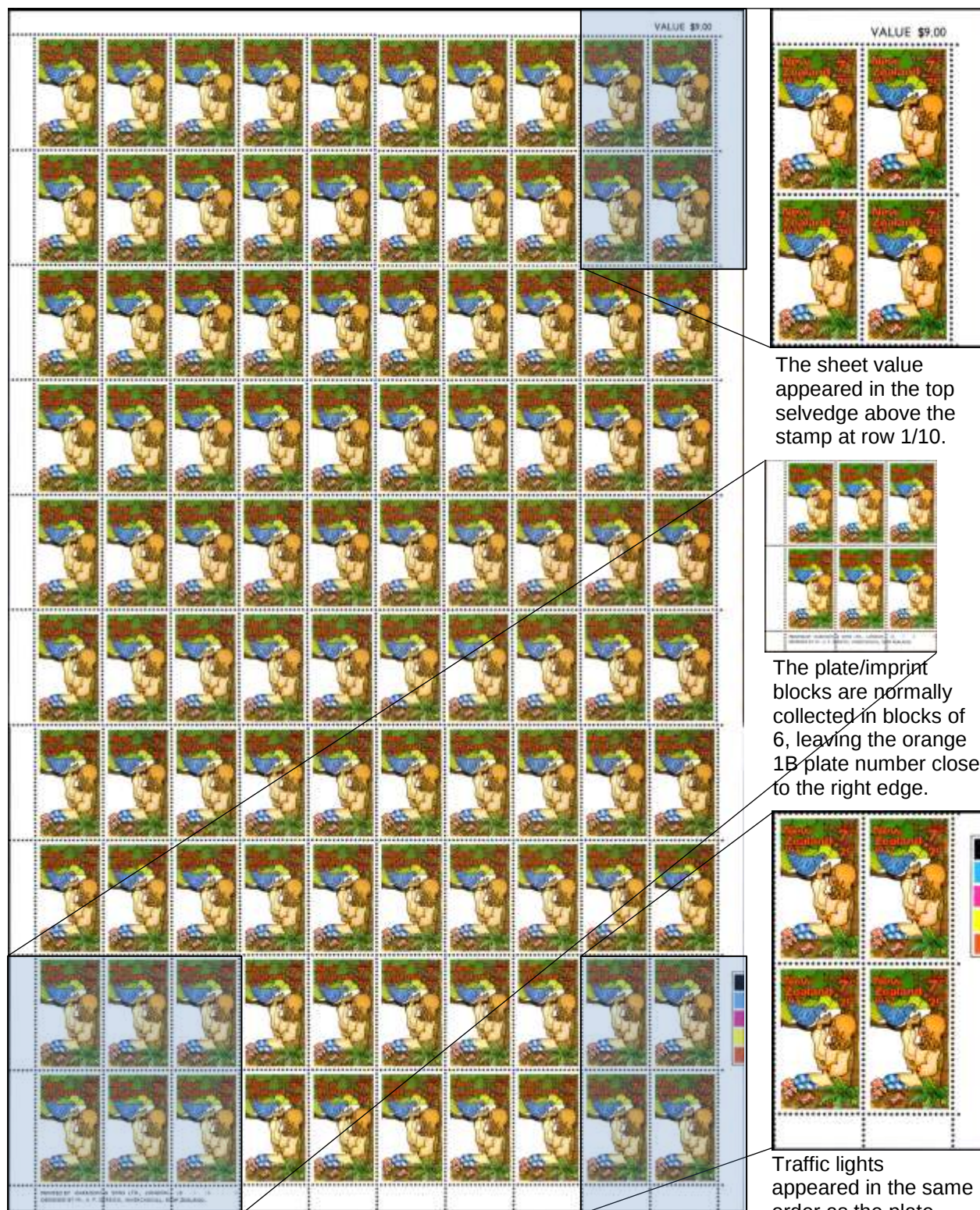


The wording is much lower on the miniature sheet stamp as seen against the branch and hole in the tree.

7c+2c Sheet Layout Plate 1A



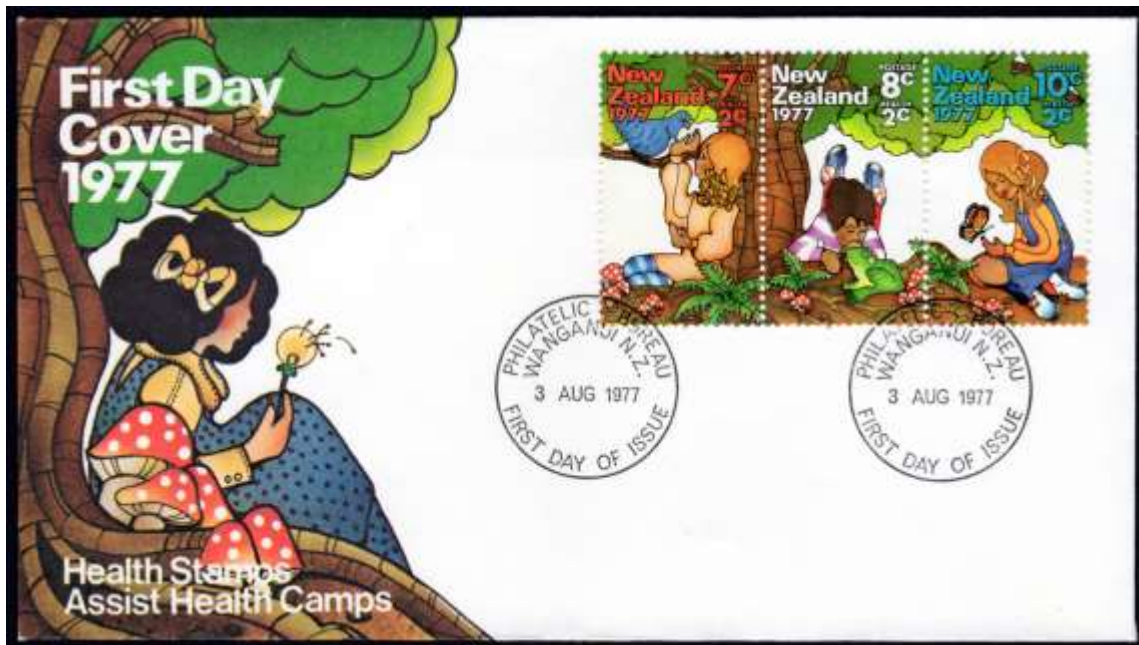
7c+2c Sheet Layout Plate 1B



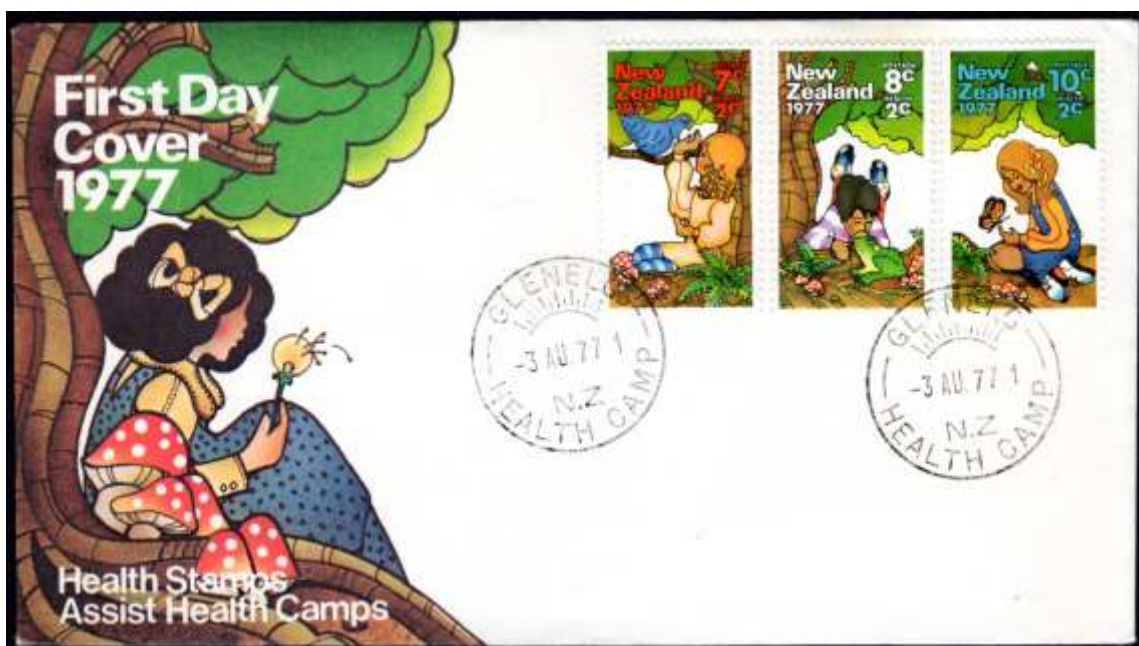
Apart from the layout of the perforations, the plate details are identical between the 1A and 1B panes. All other values, 8c+2c and 10c+2c also followed this format.

First Day Covers

Official first day covers were prepared by the Post Office and used by them and at the six permanent Health Camps. Invariably the FDC produced by the PO had stamps taken from miniature sheets and covers with stamps taken from large sheets are scarce. This had consequences that the Post Office did not anticipate. The stock of miniature sheets became depleted early with some speculators anticipating the shortage purchasing bulk stock at inflated prices; for those who plate miniature sheets, those numbered 8 and 9 from the master sheet became, and are, scarce.

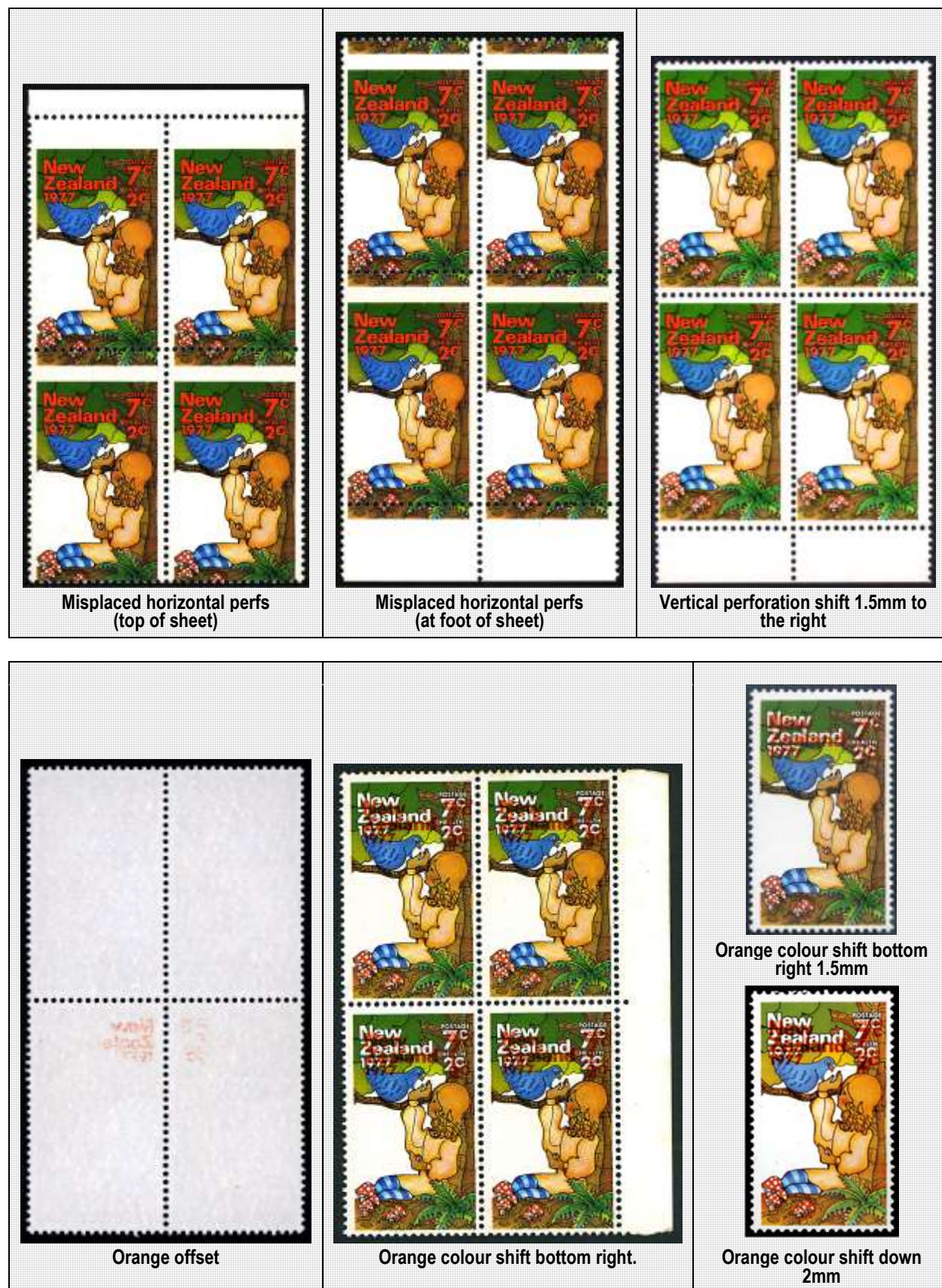


Official First Day Cover dated 'PHILATELIC BUREAU WANGANUI -3 AUG 1977'.



First Day Cover produced by the Glenelg Health Camp with stamps taken from large sheets.

7c+2c Girl and Pigeon: Main Sheet Errors and Varieties





Orange wash through the lower part of the sheet



Shades of all colours

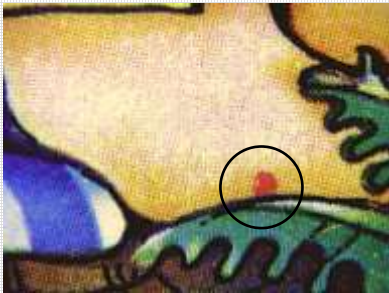
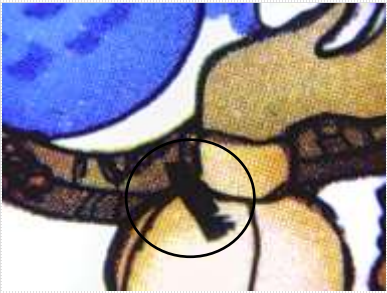


Misplaced perms single

☐	Misplaced horizontal perforations	Examples show the horizontal row of perforations displaced upwards by 7mm, cutting through the lower toad stool. Only two or three sheets of this error have been found. Where the misplacement is seen against the top selvage, there is a large white unprinted area at the top of the stamp, effectively shortening it. Where set against the lower selvage, the bottom 4mm of the design is remaindered in that selvage.		\$250	2017
☐	Misplaced vertical perforations	Small shift of the vertical perforations 1.5mm to the right, with the stamps having a wide margin between and to the right.		\$100	2017
☐	Orange smudge	A wash of orange colour is seen across the stamps in the last two rows of the sheet. Shown here is the effect in the plate block, where stamps from the foot of row 9 and the top of row 10 are affected by an irregular wash of the orange colour in a wedge shape across the stamps. This is a relatively innocuous error but seldom seen.		\$150	2017
☐	Orange offset	Partial offset of the orange colour on the reverse of the stamp. The orange colour is only found in the country name and year, as shown graphically with the orange colour shift.		£25	2003
☐	Major colour shifts	Orange	[4] with the orange colour shifted towards the bottom right by 3mm.	\$400	2003
☐			Single with orange shift bottom right by 1.5mm.	\$100	2017
☐	Shades	All colours	The main sheets show several major shade variations of the brown, most notable in the colour of the girl's dress. The light colour examples also show pale shades of the green and brown. The lighter shade appears to be relatively scarce in main sheets and scarce indeed in miniature sheets.	£5	2003

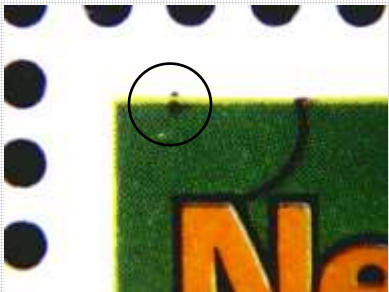
Flaws and Retouches

Plate 1A

		
R10/4, 1A Red spot on the girl's left leg.	R10/5, 1A The girl's right sleeve shows a large black flaw.	

○	R10/4	1A, Red	Red spot on the girl's left leg at the base of the dress just above the fern's left frond. .		
○	R10/5	1A, Black	The girl's right sleeve shows a large black flaw, oblong in shape, diagonally across the cuff of the raised arm, directly below the bird.		

Plate 1B

		
R1/2, 1B Black flaw in the top left corner.	Hair, normal shade	R2/5 Hair, darker shade

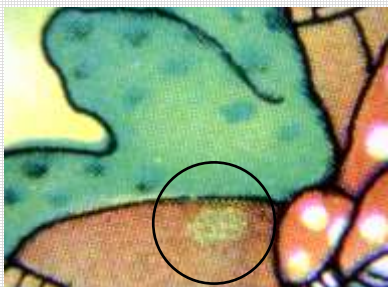
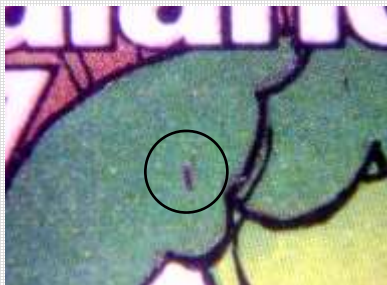
○	R1/2	1B, Black	Black flaw in the top left corner of the stamp, above the top of the 'N' of 'New'. This takes the form of two black spots, the lower; larger spot is almost hidden by the dark green background colour, whilst the top spot is much smaller, but is visible in the top margin.	-A1	✓
○	R2/5	1B Orange	The girl's hair is darker on this stamp than in all the other copies. It appears that there are more orange screen dots seen in the hair of the variety stamp at this plate position, that gives the hair its dar appearance.	E6-F7	✓

8c+2c Boy and Frog: Main Sheet Errors and Varieties

☐	Shades	Brown	Shades of the boy's hair. A small number of examples show the boy's hair a very black shade, quite different to normal.	CPNL Dec 1996
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Flaws and Retouches

Plate 1A

 R2/2 Flaw on the rock by the frog.	 R2/8 Flaw below the 'c' of the value.	 R3/7 Red spot on the frog's leg.
 R6/7 Green flaw to the right of the boy's nose.	 R8/9 Brown flaw in the trees by the 'A' of 'LAND'.	

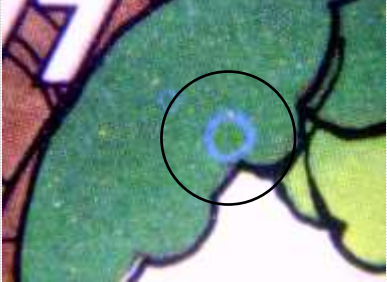
☐	R2/2	1A	Flaw on the rock by the frog.	L6	✓
☐	R2/8	1A	Flaw below the 'c' of the value.	D7	✓
☐	R3/7	1A	Red spot on the frog's leg.	K6	✓
☐	R6/7	1A	Green flaw to the right of the boy's nose.	I6	✓
☐	R8/9	1A	Brown flaw in the trees by the 'A' of 'LAND'.	D4	✓

Plate 1B

There are no significant flaws associated with plate 1B.

Transient flaws

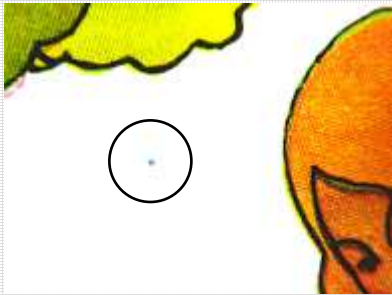
Flaws in the form of litho rings, appear on many stamps on the sheet, but are transient. Here are a few types to be aware of.

		
R3/3 Blue bullseye flaw under the '2c' of the value.	R6/8 Blue flaw in the trees above the boy's right foot.	

☐	R3/3	1A	Blue bullseye flaw under the '2c' of the value.		✓
☐	R6/8	1A	Blue flaw in the trees above the boy's right foot.		✓

10c+2c Girl and Butterfly: Main Sheet Errors and Varieties

Flaws and Retouches

 R6/3 Blue spot in the sky		
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○	R6/3	1A	Blue spot in the sky, left of the girl's forehead and below the light green leaves.	F2	✓
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Can be used for notes.

PLATING THE 1977 HEALTH MINIATURE SHEETS



The issue for 1977 saw the production of a single miniature sheet that contained two se-tenant strips of the three issued stamps in a composite design. The individual stamps from main and miniature sheets can be distinguished readily, main sheet stamps have a rectangular white border, whilst the miniature sheet stamps have the design running through the perforations, enabling the design to form a continuous picture, with a tree as the central piece.

As we have seen, although each stamp from the miniature sheet appears to be the same design as the sheet stamp but enlarged, it is similar, but the wording is enlarged to a different degree and occupies a new position on the image background.

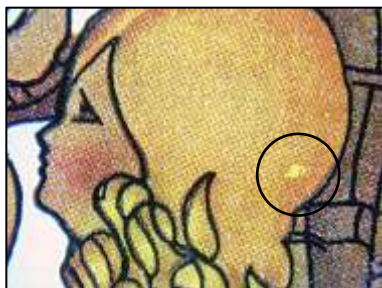
The Post Office used mainly (possibly exclusively) strips of miniature sheet stamps on its serviced first day covers. This had a number of consequences:

- There is a scarcity of first day covers with anything other than miniature sheet stamps. It is seen that some self-prepared FDC and some issued through the six Health Camps, did have main sheet stamps affixed, but this practice was not common.
- The use of miniature sheet stamps in this manner reduced the number of miniature sheets available for sale. Together with the fact that the main and miniature sheets were 'different', increased the demand for miniature sheets. Because of this, some speculators purchased batches of miniature sheets hopeful to sell at inflated prices and as a consequence some Post Offices appeared to sell out of miniature sheets in late August. The stock situation was short-lived, with the remaining supply of miniature sheets arriving from the printers, and speculators offloading their failed profit making purchases.
- For the specialist engaged in plating the miniature sheets, it is seen that there is a significant variation in the number of miniature sheets in various plate positions, with some miniature sheets being scarce. Specifically sheet positions 8 and 9 are seen in far fewer numbers than others.

It is a relatively straightforward exercise to plate the individual sheets from the 1977 Health issue. There are enough distinguishing marks to differentiate each miniature sheet from its neighbour. Although the 'distinguishing marks' and varieties may not be that spectacular, the use of a small magnifying glass will make the process much easier. It is seen that there are nine different miniature sheets with unique characteristics.

This document attempts to illustrate those differentiating marks for each sheet, by showing the miniature sheet (at the centre of the page) and displaying the identified varieties around it by way of a small picture and description of the variety. In some cases the picture may show a number of what may be considered differentiating marks (especially spots), please use those circled to link correctly the illustration to the text. Use the varieties found on the stamps to confirm the miniature sheet position.

Firstly, a word of warning. For those preparing to engage in a plating exercise, be aware that the nature of the printing process used by Harrison and Sons leads to a significant number of transient varieties, such as bullseye flaws, small flecks of colour and spots. Such varieties are normally welcome when they are constant, but here many are of a transient nature lasting perhaps no more than a few sheets. Certainly they are curios, and valid for collections, but detract from a plating exercise, diverting the specialist away from perhaps smaller varieties that are constant. More on this later.



Yellow flaw at the back of the girl's hair.



Yellow flaw on the bridge of the boy's nose.



Brown flaw in the background just below the fern.

A single master sheet of miniature sheets were prepared as in previous years, and may appear as shown below, trimmed and ready for separating. It is seen through evidence gleaned from errors seen on some miniature sheets, that there are printing marks surrounding the nine miniature sheets that are normally trimmed away. This is discussed under the 'Errors' section below.



For the purpose of this plating exercise, the positions of the miniature sheets are labelled 1 through 9, in accordance to the diagram at left.

Within the miniature sheet, individual stamps are designated by their row and column position as normal.

Although there are 9 different miniature sheets it does not necessarily require them to be in a rectangular format, as other years Health stamps have shown that irregular compositions may be possible. The 3x3 format needs to be proven. Once again, whilst researching Health miniature sheets, the perforations will help prove the format.

A potential master sheet arrangement

Nine different miniature sheets are most logically arranged in a rectangular arrangement of 3 x 3. But can this be proven? Looking at the perforations of a single miniature sheet, there are occurrences of small, almost slight, deviations in the alignment of some perf pins that repeat across that miniature sheet. These are shown in the diagrams that follow on the next page. These small deviations occur twice on each miniature sheet in a horizontal row. Thus we can show that the miniature sheets are perforated by a double comb, horizontally across the master sheet, most likely from right to left (but left to right is possible, but unlikely given some of the perf displacements seen)

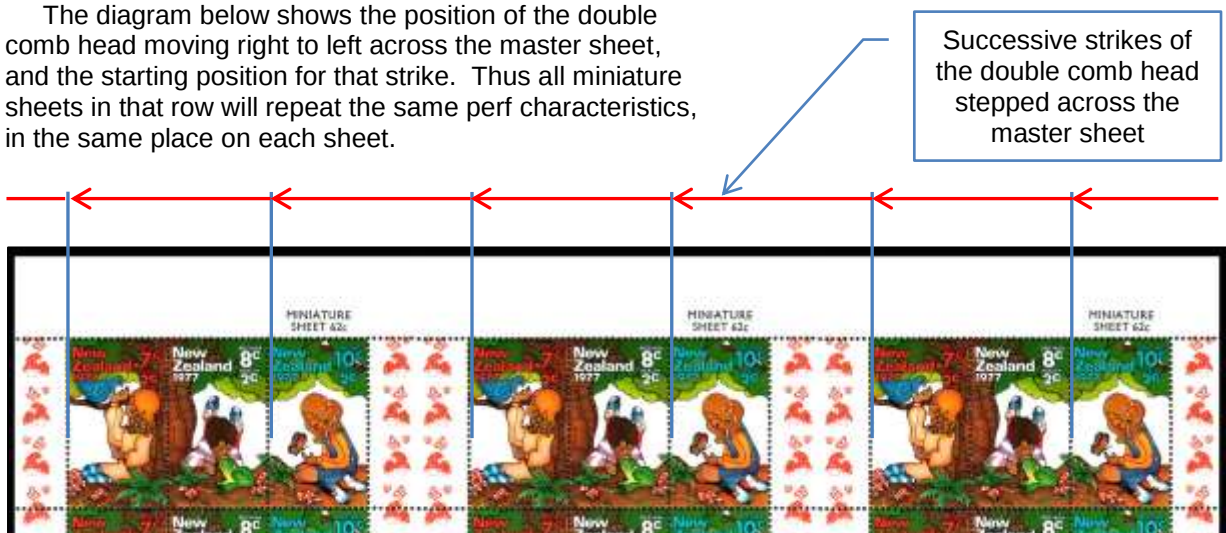
Looking at all the miniature sheets, it can be shown that the nine can be sorted into three groups of three sheets based upon the occurrence of the same perforation characteristics. Therefore we can prove

logically that the 3x3 arrangement is correct and also to identify which row an individual miniature sheet belongs. Therefore we know that MS#1, 2 and 3 belong to one row and have the same perf characteristics; MS#4, 5 and 6 belong to a different row; and similarly MS#7, 8 and 9 are grouped into a different row.

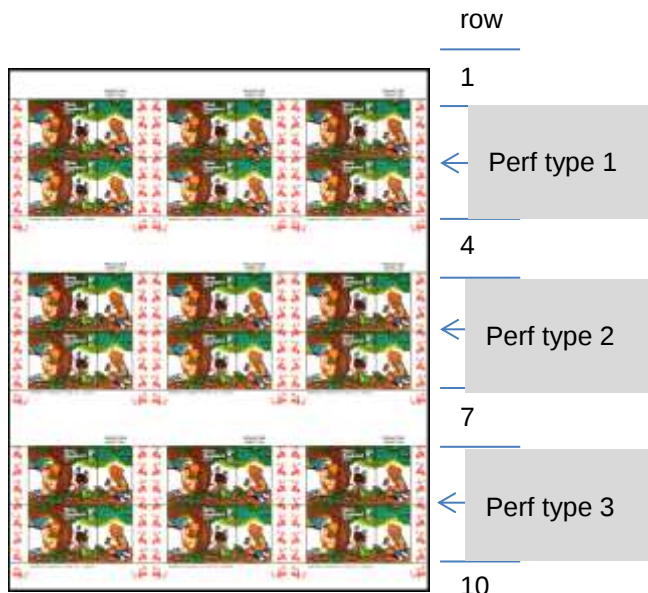
What we cannot do at this stage is prove which group is row 1, 2 or 3; and the miniature sheets in that row. With the exception of the order of MS#1, 2 and 3 because of the following:

- On miniature sheets with the first type perf characteristics, MS#3 is positioned on the right side as the error sheet that shows the colour blocks is a sheet 3.
- Using the misguillotined sheet that has two columns of toadstools in the right selvedge, it can be seen that the rightmost column of toadstools belongs to MS#3 by reference to the constant varieties found in the selvedge. Therefore this error sheet must be MS#2.
- By elimination, the remaining miniature sheet of the three with perf type 1 must be MS#1.

The diagram below shows the position of the double comb head moving right to left across the master sheet, and the starting position for that strike. Thus all miniature sheets in that row will repeat the same perf characteristics, in the same place on each sheet.



This diagram also illustrates that any anomaly that is seen on the horizontal perfs in column 2 of the 1st miniature sheet, will also occur in the gutter between sheets 1 and 2, depending upon the position of that anomaly it will appear either in the left or right selvedge of that sheet.



It appears that a special comb machine was used here, with the vertical row of perfs removed from rows 1, 4, 7 and 10, resulting in three different perf characteristics one for each of the three double rows interspersed with a row with no perfs running through it.

We have it that:

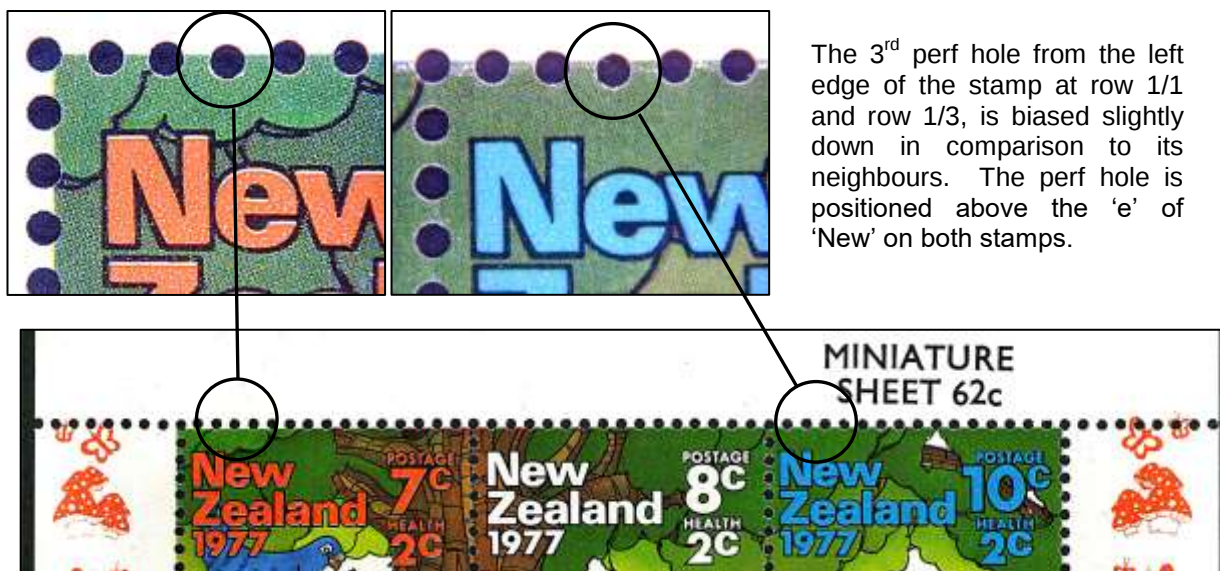
MS# 1, 2 and 3 with have perf type 1;
MS# 4, 5 and 6 with have perf type 2;
MS# 7, 8 and 9 with have perf type 3.

The following three diagrams illustrate how to differentiate between the three different perf characteristics or types¹.

For plating purposes, it may be useful to look to the perforations to shortlist the row from which the miniature sheet belongs before looking for printing varieties. However, it is easy to distinguish between the 9 miniature sheets and reviewing the perforations does not gain much, if any, advantage.

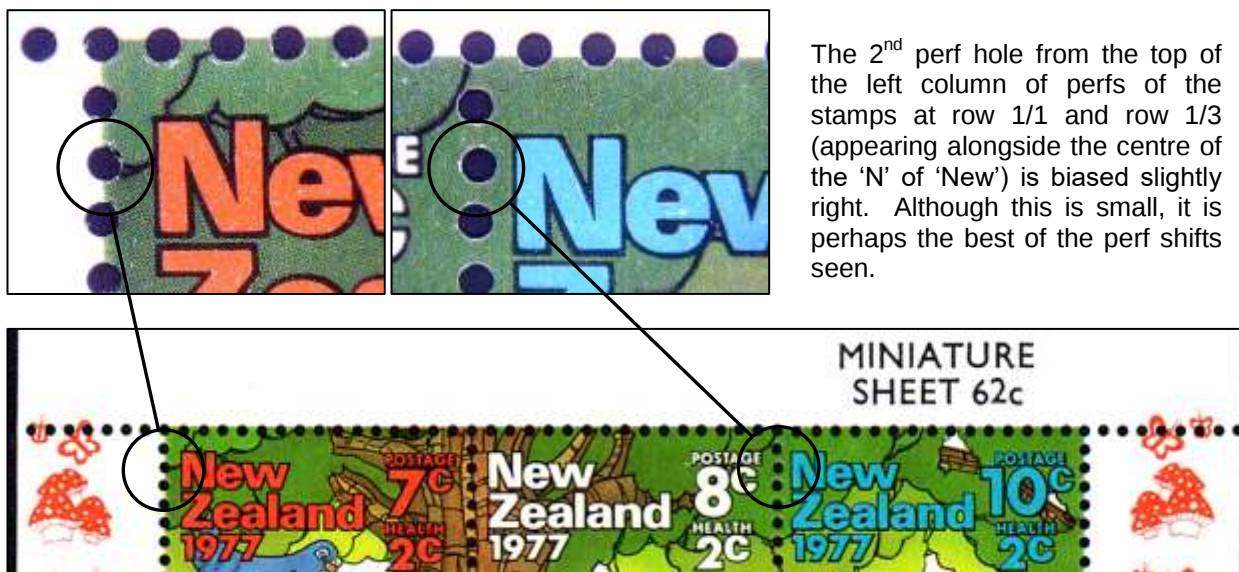
Miniature sheet perf characteristics type 1

Miniature sheets 1, 2 and 3

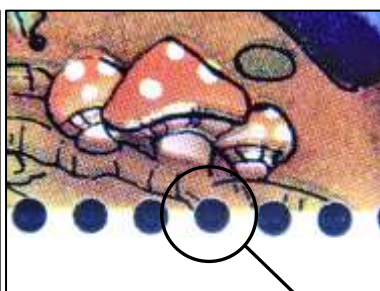


Miniature sheet perf characteristics type 2

Miniature sheets 4, 5 and 6



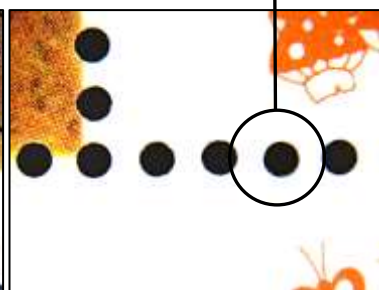
¹ The author has chosen to illustrate the few perforation displacements that will identify the type but has not listed them all, as to do so would confuse. Such displacements are small and become subjective.

Miniature sheet perf characteristics type 3**Miniature sheets 7, 8 and 9**

The 7th perf hole (above the 'Y' of 'BY' in the imprint) of the lower perfs of the stamp at row 2/1, is biased slightly up. The hole itself appears slightly smaller than its neighbours. In the stamp at row 2/3, the same perf hole appears below the central toadstool, just right of centre.

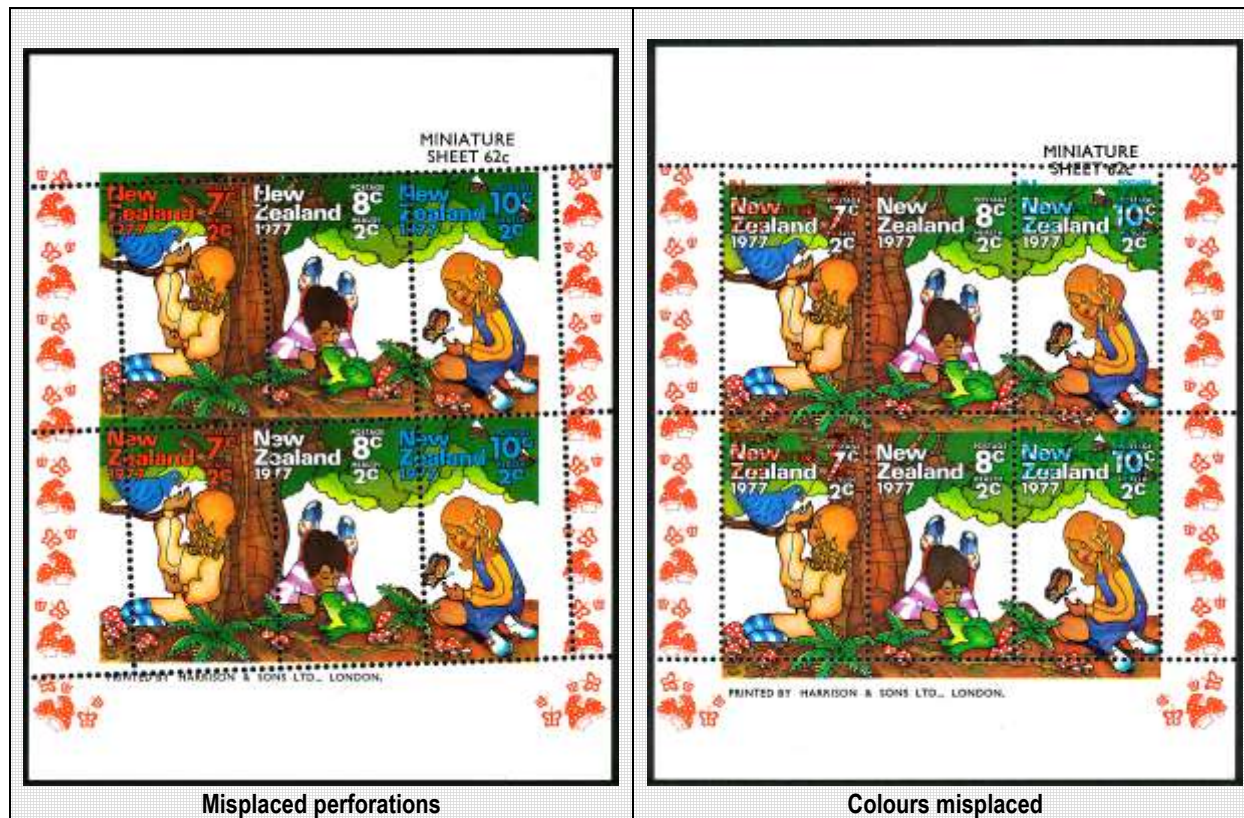
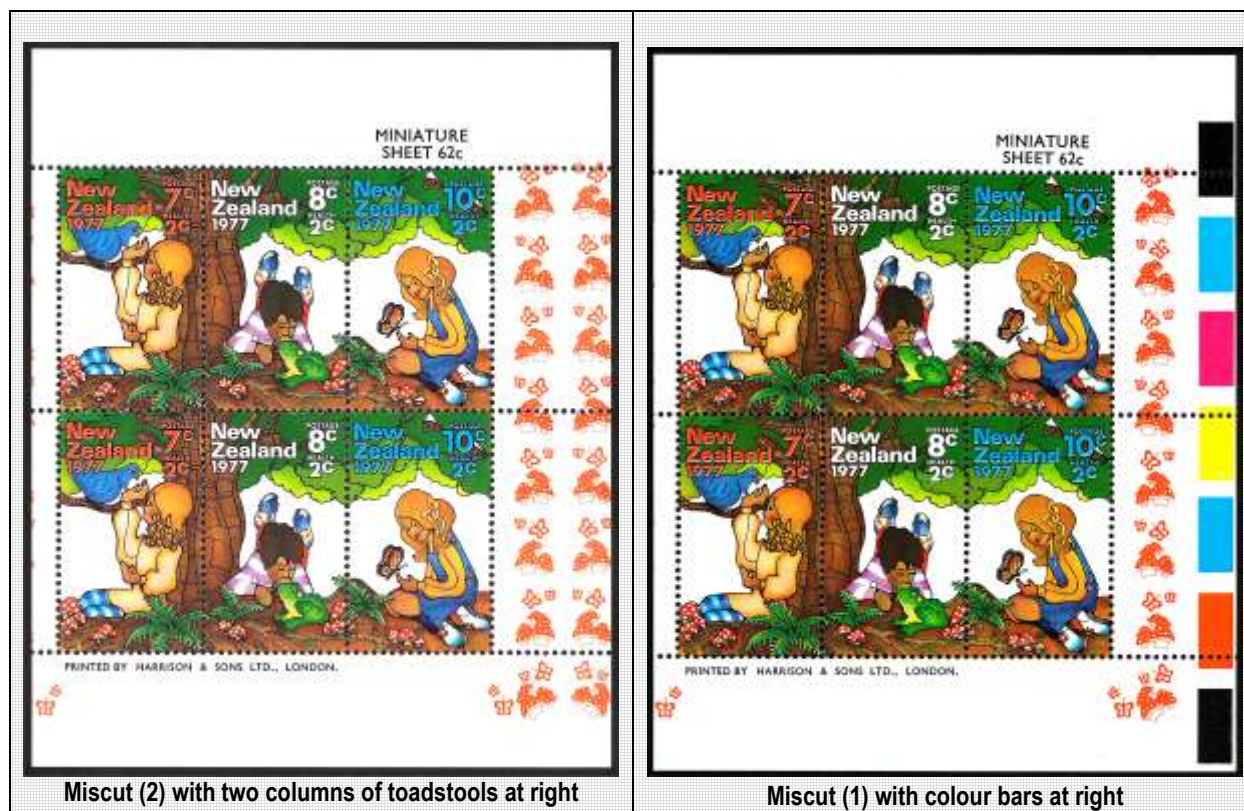


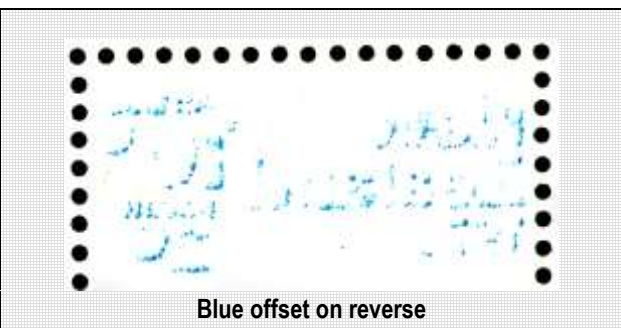
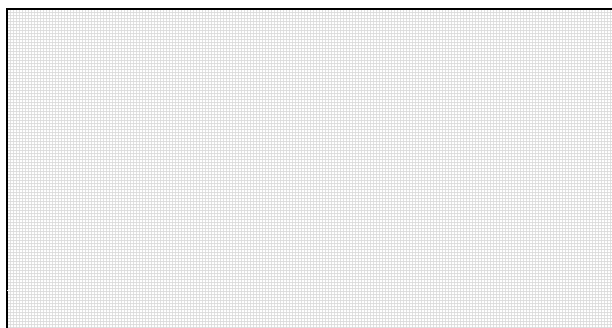
The 3rd perf hole (above the 'N' of 'SONS' in the imprint) of the lower perfs of the stamp at row 2/2, is biased slightly bottom right, leaving a smaller gap to the 4th perf hole. The same perf hole appears in the right selvedge just below the left edge of the toadstools.



* * * * *

Miniature Sheet, Errors and Varieties





The Post Office advertised that 252,600 miniature sheets were issued in the 1977 Health programme. This is a similar number to that issued in preceding years. Given that a significant number of miniature sheets were used in the production of FDCs and that the main and miniature sheets stamps were physically different, demand for the miniature sheets was great. It is understood that the initial supply was exhausted quickly, aided by speculators who foresaw the initial demand, but was relieved when the remaining supply was shipped from London.

It is not unusual to find miniature sheets showing printing errors, but the 1977 issue has a significant number of major errors, greater than would be anticipated.

☐	Miscut (1)	M/S is miscut so that there is a small selvedge on the left, while the right selvedge is extra wide and includes the colour blocks (black, blue, red, yellow, light blue, orange and black) vertically at the extreme right. These are normally trimmed away prior to issuing sheets.	\$700	2017
☐	Miscut (2)	M/S is miscut (as above), with small left selvedge and wide right selvedge. The right selvedge has two columns of toad-stools.	\$700	2017
☐	Misplaced perforations	M/S shows the perforations misplaced at an angle across the sheet, low at the left and high on the right.	£130	2003
☐	Colours misplaced	Extreme example showing the majority of colours misplaced downwards by some 2mm. Only the orange and light blue are in their normal place, with the other four colours affected.	£180	2003
☐	Partial orange omitted	M/S shows partial orange omitted in the bottom left selvedge (toadstools) and in the wording across the bottom of the 'N' and all of the 'Z' of 'New Zealand'.	£70	2003
☐	Blue colour offset on the reverse	Some sheets show the blue colour of 'New Zealand' and the value offset on the reverse of the stamp.	£10	2003
☐	Brown smudge	The miniature sheet shows evidence of smudging of the brown colour on stamps at R1/1 on the girl's left hand, R2/1 on the girl's hair, and affecting the bark of the trees on stamps 1/2 and 2/2. The variety may have been caused by the movement of sheets of printed stamps against each other, as can be demonstrated by the appearance of the smudge of brown colour on the reverse of each affected stamp.	£10	2003
☐	Shades	Brown Particularly evident in the colour of the tree and foreground. (Brown and red-brown).	£10	2003

Narrative relating to the miniature sheet errors

Miscut sheets



Here, the miniature sheet is misguillotined 9mm to the right, leading to side selvages of different size. The selvedge on the left is narrow, that on the right has a double column of toadstools.

This shows that the miniature sheet is from the left or central column of miniature sheets on the master sheet. There would have been at least 9 miniature sheets affected in this manner, six of which will have this characteristic.

The stamps themselves are mostly unaffected. There is a small shift of the orange and light blue colours upwards by some 0.5mm affecting

all sheets seen with these misguillotined errors.



The second miniature sheet is also misguillotined 9mm to the right, but is from the right column of miniature sheets on the master sheet. Thus,

the right selvage now shows the colour control blocks normally trimmed away prior to issue. This is interesting in itself, as the colour blocks are the only place where all colours needed to print these three stamps combined are seen together.



The error miniature sheet with colour control blocks demonstrates the placement of this miniature sheet, appearing in the right column. Given the make-up of the master sheet, there must be at least three error sheets in existence.

It is interesting to note that this and the previous error miniature sheet are part of the same error master sheet. Although they have the same market value, there are twice as many miniature sheets with a double column of toadstools than there are of miniature sheets with colour control blocks.

It is also interesting to note that there are six printing colours of the miniature sheet, black, 2 shades of blue, red, orange and yellow, yet each stamp only comprises of 5 different colours. To complete the se-tenant strip of 3 stamps, all six colours are needed.

Shift of the orange and light blue colours(?)



In this example, the four main printing colours, black, red, blue and yellow, are displaced downwards by some 3mm. This leaves the other two colours orange and light blue in their normal position. At first sight, this resembles a perforation shift upwards, with the main design misplaced. On closer inspection, the colours for 'New Zealand' on the 7c+2c and 10c+2c are in their correct positions.



So is this a shift of the orange, light blue and perforations, or is it a shift of the four main printing colours?

This error demonstrates that the two 'extra colours' over the four main colours (CMYK), are used for the wording 'New Zealand' only. In the miniature sheet, the orange is used also for the vertical column of toadstools in the selvage either side of the stamps. As expected, they are aligned in accordance to the orange on the stamps in this example.

What this may also tell us is part of the printing process. It is likely that the miniature sheets are printed on two separate presses. One press would print the four main printing colours CMYK (Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Key), blue, red, yellow and black; and a second press or process would print the other colours, orange and light blue, and perforate. The first pass through the press would print the four main colours but slightly misplaced, transferring the sheet to the second press would print the orange and light blue in their correct position. It is likely that the perforations were added by the same Harrison Jumelle presses (as used in the Rose definitives of that time).

It is likely that there are multiple examples of this variety, perhaps a batch of sheets, over and above those from the remaining master sheet.

What adds support to the idea of two printing processes is the presence of this same error occurring on large sheet stamps. So far only the orange colour has been reported as 'shifted', but in this case, there is not the expected shift of the perforations to match.



The example shows a block [4] with the orange country name and value misplaced to the bottom right by some 3mm, leaving much of the wording white. All other colours are unaffected.

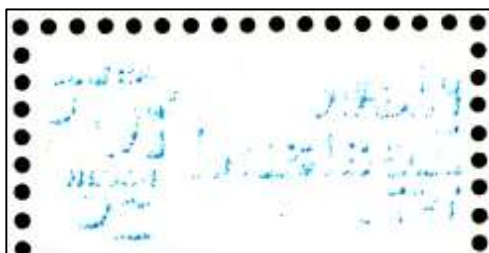
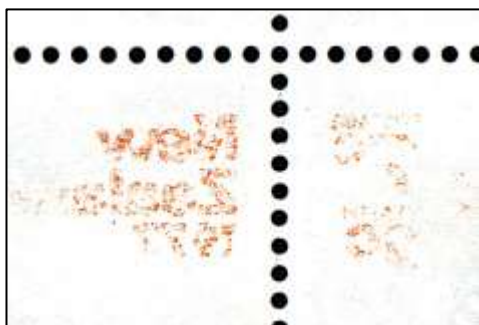
This colour misplacement changes the look of the stamp considerably. The orange colour is significant, but is only used in the wording at the top of the stamp. So by shifting the orange away from its normal position, it gives the appearance of the wording being white and losing the impact of the orange so that it blends into the tree at the top of the stamp.

It is unusual to find this colour shift affecting main sheets. The error is seen more often in miniature sheets coupled with a similar shift of the light blue of the 10c+2c stamp. Shifts of the

other CMYK colours are unknown. This possibly gives support to the idea that the orange (and light blue) were printed by another machine or process.

Orange and light blue set-offs

The only offsets or set-offs reported on the 1977 Health stamps affect the orange and light blue colours. Orange set-offs appear on stamps from main sheets, light blue from miniature sheets.



This example shows the light blue colour of the country name and year from the 7c+2c (orange from main sheets) and 10c+2c (light blue from miniature sheets) partially offset on the reverse of the stamp. The offset itself is outline only and not full, and reads in reverse as expected. As an error, this is not significant. It is likely to have been caused by the miniature sheet being placed on top of the previously printed sheet, prior to the light blue ink of that previous sheet drying, thereby picking up excess ink. It is therefore a classic 'set-off'. These set-offs are only significant because they affect the orange and light blue colours only.

Partial orange omitted



It is not unusual to find errors of this nature, but not usually where it affects just one colour. In modern printing, the base colours (CMYK) are added in consecutive rotary presses, and it is likely that the cleaning fluid would affect all colours. Here the only colour

affected is the orange colour of the stamps from a miniature sheet, adding support that the orange and light blue colours are added by a separate process after the main CMYK colours. Additionally, the upper part of this selvage shows multiple tiny, faint orange litho-rings, as if splashed.

Poor printing of the orange colour



A small number of examples from the miniature sheet show the orange colour poorly printed. In the majority of these cases, the orange colour used in the side selvages of the miniature sheet, and wording on the 7c+2c stamp appears mottled, a smaller number with large holes in the expected solid shapes. These are shown in the diagrams on the left.

The upper two images show the orange colour mottled, almost akin to giraffe camouflage, with orange ink mixed against a white background. In this instance there is a problem with the orange ink perhaps mixed with oil that has caused the spread of the ink across the paper to be inhibited, so that it gathers together leaving holes where the oil gathers. This is similar to the effect that causes bullseye flaws, albeit in a bigger scale. This error only affects the orange colour, all others are normal.

In examples where there are large white holes in the toadstools in the side selvages, the spread of the orange colour is mostly normal. As in the diagram below, the natural holes in the toadstools are opened further or joined, becoming patchy at their edges.

It is likely that the same cause applies here also. But it is speculation to determine if the two types of print error are related, or a coincidence.

Interestingly, so far, these errors have only been seen on stamps from master sheet position 1, top left of the master sheet, yet one would expect it to exist in equal numbers on all other positions.

Poor printing of the blue colour



Miniature sheet #4 has an interesting transient variety affecting the blue colour. A single miniature sheet has been found with the blue colour of the stamp at row 2/3 leaking through the right side of the design into the right selvage. The sheet has no shift of either blue colour, and this variety is not present in row 1. Given the composite design of the strip of three stamps from the miniature sheet, should this variety affect the stamps at row 2/1 or 2/2, there are no white areas for it to be visible, until the third stamp opens to the right selvage. The colour of this extraneous band of blue appears to be that of the wording, however, this light blue colour is not used elsewhere on the miniature sheet, and certainly not part of the green foliage at the top of the design.

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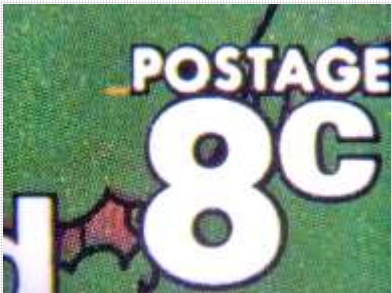
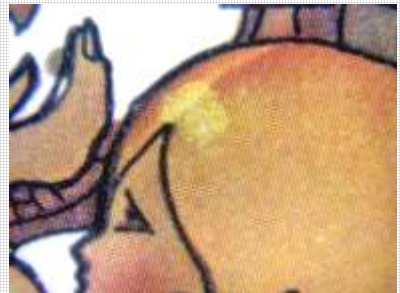
Miniature sheet transient varieties

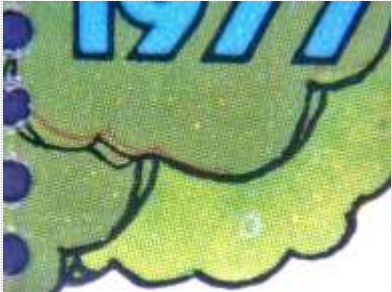
This subject was touched upon earlier and used as a warning. To a stamp collector, the presence of variety is welcome. Being able to show where one stamp differs from its neighbour adds spice to a collection, and in some cases, additional value. Transient varieties, where a flaw in printing lasts for only a few sheets, may well delight some, but is perhaps the curse of those specialists who are attempting to plate their stamps, as they detract from perhaps more minor, but constant, fly-spec varieties.

Here, the 1977 Health stamps abound with transient varieties. Almost every sheet will show some temporary flaw. The method of printing, lithography, lends itself naturally to the development of small temporary circular flaws, litho-rings or bullseye flaws, that appear, move and disappear seemingly at random during the printing.

This research will not provide a list of transient varieties, as by their nature, they are temporary. Yet to disregard them will open the collector to mistakenly identify them as 'new varieties' and mis-plate the specimen they are researching. By illustrating some of the more common transient varieties, as done at the start of the section for each miniature sheet, the collector can be given enough examples to be able to recognise them, and treat them for what they are, rather than a 'new find'.

This paragraph will open the discussion on transient varieties as seen on the 1977 Health stamps, and illustrate some of their properties and variety.

 The most common type of transient variety is a 'fleck' of colour used in combination with another to overlay the background. Here, by the 'P' of 'POSTAGE', the blue colour is missing, allowing the yellow/red to show through.	 Another common transient variety is the litho-ring. On this example from MS#5, there is a blue litho-ring below the 'n' of 'land' where the yellow colour is affected by liquid that repels ink, allowing blue to show through.	 On MS#6 there is a transient variety that extends the 'fleck' of colour missing, to a large patch, too large for both the fleck and litho-ring. Caused by the same property of ink being repelled, this time spreading over a much larger area.
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		MS#9 shows a common type of transient variety in the form of a litho-ring. This example, and the example below, shows the movement of the transient variety across the stamps. Here the litho-ring is seen to move right to left (or left to right). Coincidence maybe, but see the example below.
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		MS#5 shows an interesting flaw where the yellow colour is 'washed away' in a curved band by the '2c' value, allowing the blue accompanying colour to show through. Clearly this is the same flaw, but is seen to move from its original position between two different miniature sheets. They illustrate the temporary nature of these flaws and their inconsistency.
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Some of these transient varieties are quite spectacular, especially when compared with constant ones (that may be no more than blue or orange spots). Because of this, some of the transient varieties may have value in their own right, either because of their position, or their size. Some of these are illustrated below. Otherwise, transient varieties caused by this type of printing method are common, interesting, but undermine the collector looking to plate their miniature sheets.

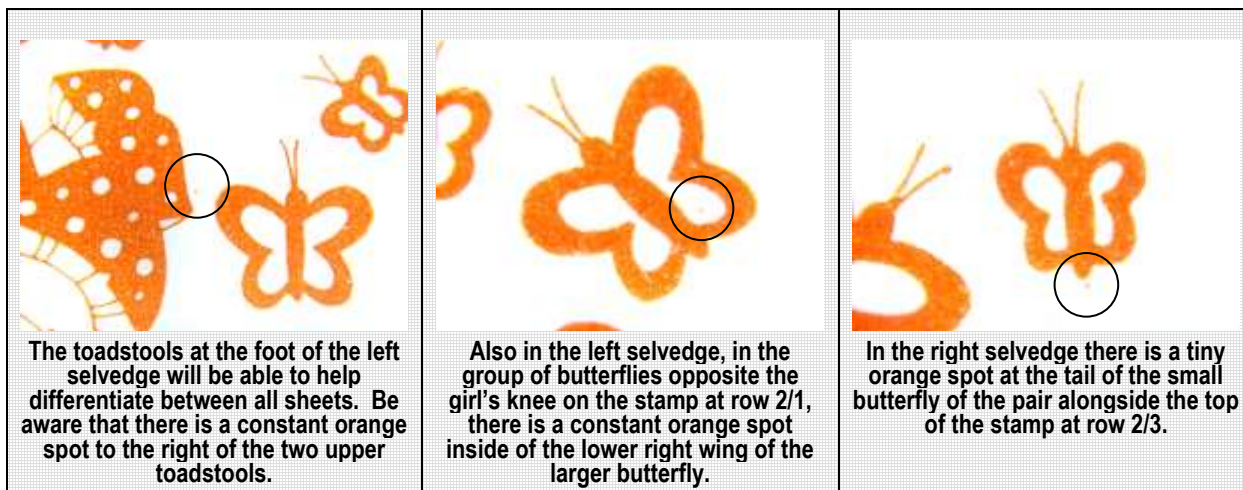
 MS#2 has a transient 'inverted red heart' at the back of the girl's hair, where the yellow screen dots are missing. This is caused, again, but oil or water in the pigment or on the plate repelling the ink, but in this instance shows as a recognisable shape, and collectable for that.	 MS#3 shows an interesting variety in the boy's hair, closely resembling a handwritten '3'. It is unlikely that this form of transient variety is caused by water or oil repelling the ink.	 MS#7 R2/3 shows a red flaw on the girl's chin, as if a tattoo. This is a 'fleck' type variety but its position makes it prominent and recognisable.
 MS#7 shows on R2/2 shows a large speckled green patch on the tree trunk, left of the boy's arm. This is where the red colour is poorly printed by a spread of liquid repelling ink, allowing the blue and yellow colours to show through as green.	 A similar transient variety on the tree trunk of MS#8 shows a red speckled flaw, here missing the blue colour. The black colour is still present, providing the coarse screen.	

Lithography printing will introduce these transient varieties at some point in the printing. On the 1977 Health, there are many such occurrences, and nearly every miniature sheet will show at least one of these.

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Miniature sheet constant varieties

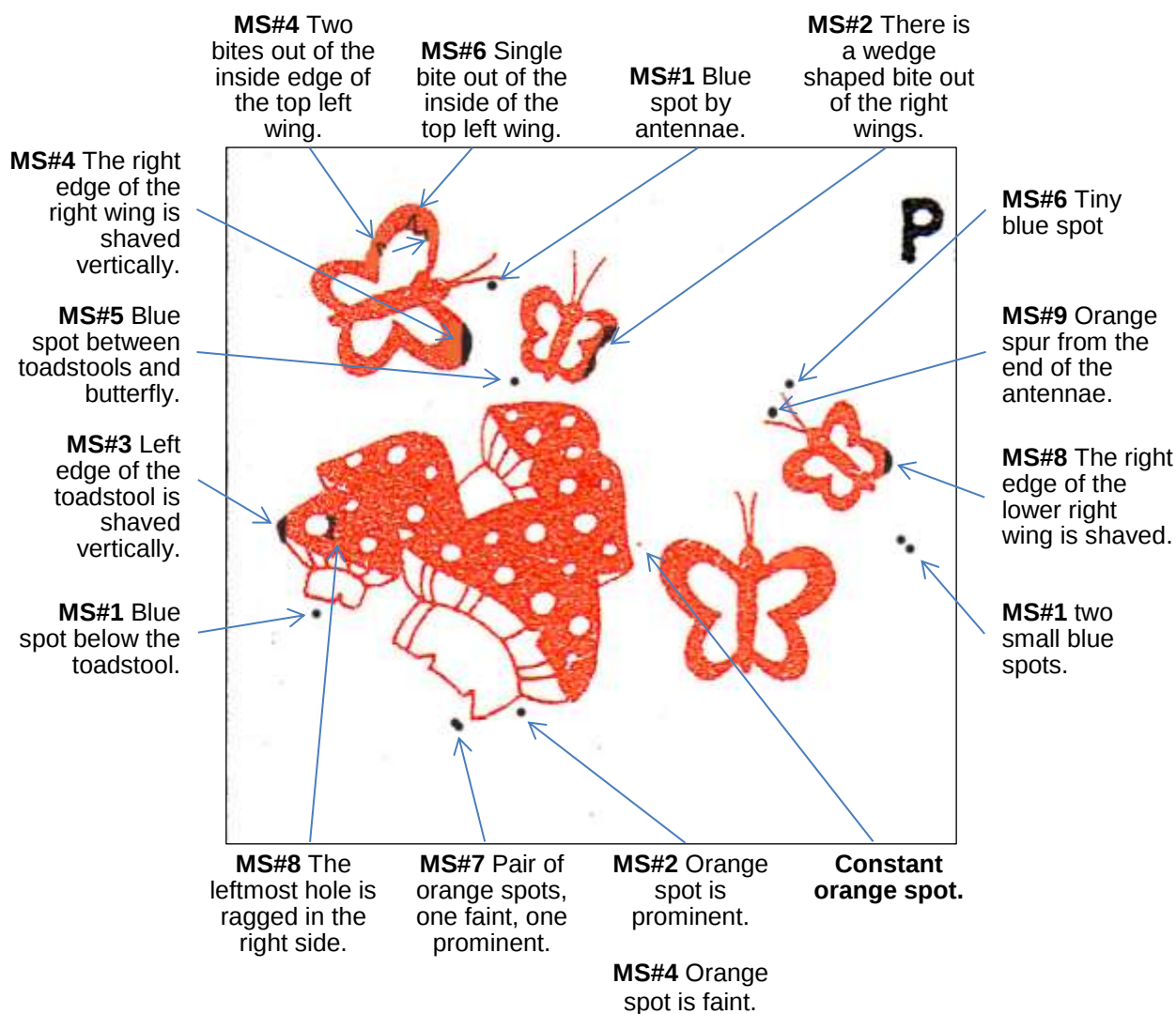
There are many tiny blue and orange spots found on the miniature sheets of this issue, some help plate the sheets, other hinder. There are a few spots that are worthwhile identifying, as they will hinder plating.



* * * * *

Quick method for plating miniature sheets

The remainder of this section illustrates the constant (and select transient) varieties that are found on the miniature sheets of the 1977 Health stamps, with the aim of enabling the collector to plate sheets in their collection through illustrating the major varieties seen. If the collector's aim is to identify the master sheet position of their example quickly, then it is possible to reference the group of toadstools and butterflies that appear at the bottom left corner of the sheet. There are enough varieties found here to differentiate each sheet, and it is not necessary to refer to the detailed listings unless confirmation is needed.



Notes on the Variety Pages that follow

Abbreviations used: **LS** Left Selvedge; **RS** Right Selvedge; **SV** Sheet Value including words 'MINIATURE SHEET'.

Thirkell Positions: There is no defined top or sides to the design of the stamps from the miniature sheets. The Thirkell positions given here are with the position finder placed along the centre lines of the top and left perforations.

Headings for the columns in the variety tables are as follows:

Position Row/Col	Colour affected	Variety Description	Thirkell Position	Major variety
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Miniature Sheet 1



There are multiple blue spots that affect this sheet, especially amongst the toadstools in the left and right selvages. The most prominent of these is seen on the antennae of the butterfly at the base of the left selvedge. This particular blue spot will successfully plate this miniature sheet. There are few varieties found here, so the specialist must use the presence of other blue or orange dots to confirm this miniature sheet position.

Some sheets show the ornaments in the left selvedge pitted, having large white spots and smudges in the toadstools and to a lesser extent the butterflies, and in some copies a general poor printing of the orange colour.

☐	Left selvedge	Blue	Blue spot right of the butterfly in the left selvedge, level with the middle of the stamp at row 1/1.	-	
☐	Left selvedge	Blue	Three blue spots in and around the butterfly in the left selvedge by the girl's knees of the stamp at row 2/1. The first spot is below the small butterfly; the second between the two butterflies; the third right of the larger butterfly.	-	
☐	Left selvedge	Blue	Blue spot on the antennae of the left butterfly of the pair above the toadstools at the foot of the left selvedge, left of the imprint.	-	✓
☐	Left selvedge	Blue	Pair of close, blue spots below the small butterfly, below the 'P' of 'PRINTED'.	-	
☐	Left selvedge	Blue	Blue spot adjacent to the foot of the toadstool at bottom left. There is a further blue spot at the top of the toadstools in the bottom left corner. The latter spot is faint.	-	
☐	Right selvedge	Orange	Orange spot by the tail of the butterfly in the right selvedge, right of the girl's elbow on stamp at row 1/3.	-	✓
☐	Right selvedge	Orange	Tiny white spot just below the apex of the large toadstool at centre, behind the girl on the stamp at row 2/3. (Not illustrated).	-	
☐	Imprint	Black	Tiny black spot 2mm below the 'N' in 'PRINTED'. Could be faint.	-	
☐	Imprint	Blue	Blue spot below the 'L' of 'LONDON' in the imprint.	-	
☐	R1/2	Blue	Small red fleck in the branch above the 'n' of 'land' where the blue screen dots are missing.	B4 5	
☐	R2/1	Blue	Tiny blue spot in the background just above the girl's knee.	J2	
☐	R2/1	Red	Additional red spot in the tree, left of the bird, 1.5mm below the constant red spot.	E1	
☐	R2/2	Red	Tiny red spot immediately right of the boy's red sock on the right.	I6	
☐	R2/2	Red	Tiny red spot in the diagonal of the 'N' of 'New', near the top.	A B1	
☐	R2/2	Red	Green spot on the boy's cheek on left, where red screen dots are missing.	J4	
☐	R2/3	Blue	Yellow spot in the dark green tree, 2mm left of the top of the '2c'.	C D6	
☐	R2/3	Red	Yellow spot on the inside of the girl's elbow.	J6	

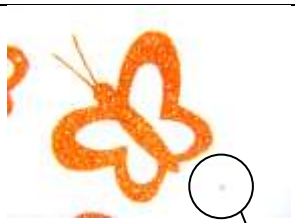
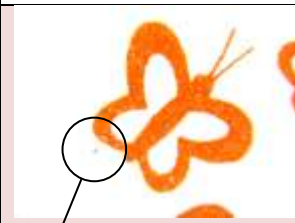
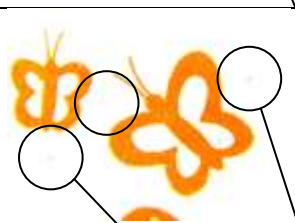
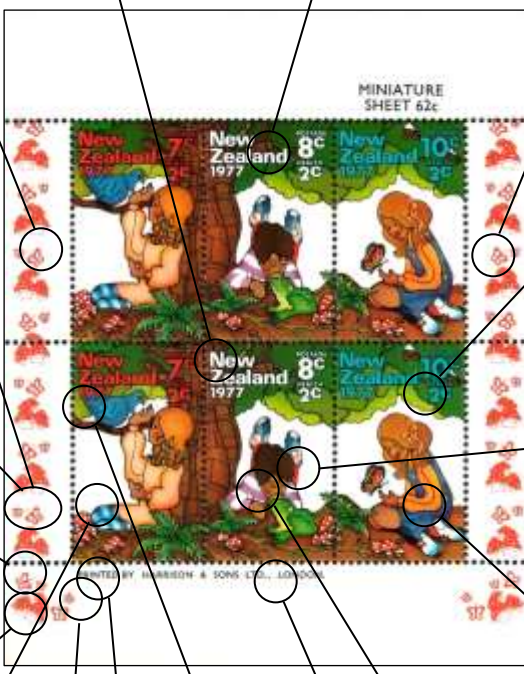
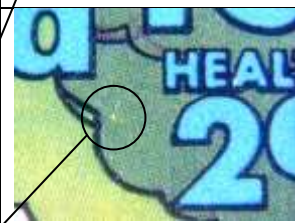
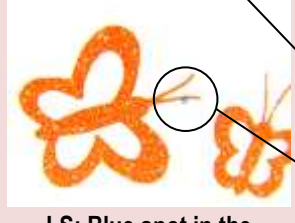
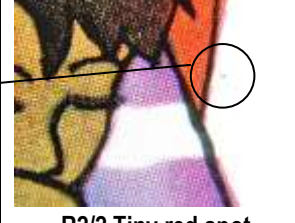
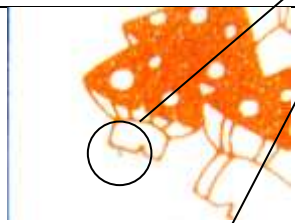
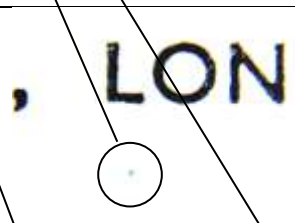
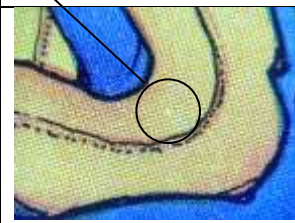
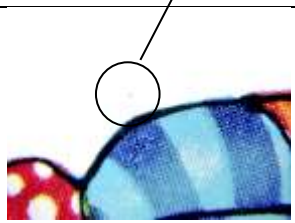
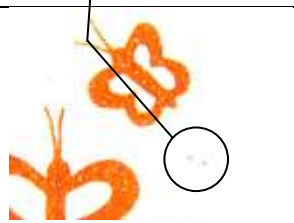
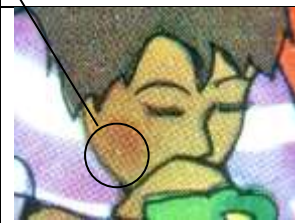
Transient varieties

R1/1 Blue litho ring in the tree above the 'e' of 'New'.	R1/2 Smudge of brown on the trunk where the black is missing.	R1/3 Blue litho ring in the trees bottom right of the '2c'.	R2/3 Green disturbance below the girl's knees.
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1977 Health – Children in the Woods

Miniature Sheet Plating

Sheet #1

 LS: Blue spot bottom right of the butterfly in the left selvage, mid row 1/1.	 R2/2 Tiny red spot in the diagonal of the 'N' of 'New'.	 R1/2 Small red fleck in the branch above the 'n' of 'land'.	 RS: Small orange spot bottom left of butterfly in right selvage mid row 1/3.
 LS: Three small blue spots by the butterflies in the left selvage by R2/1. The middle spot is faint			 R2/3 Yellow spot in the dark green of the tree, 2mm left of the top of the '2c'.
 LS: Blue spot in the antennae of the butterfly extreme left of the lower selvage.			 R2/2 Tiny red spot immediately right of the boy's red sock.
 LS: Blue spot adjacent to the foot of the toadstool at bottom left.	 Imprint: Tiny black spot below the 'N' of 'PRINTED'. Faint on some examples.	 Imprint: Blue spot in the lower selvage below the 'L' of 'LONDON'.	 R2/3 Yellow spot on the inside of the girl's elbow.
 R2/1 Tiny blue spot just above the girl's knee.	 LS: Pair of blue spots below the small butterfly, below the 'P' of 'PRINTED'.	 R2/1 Additional red spot in the tree, left of the pigeon.	 R2/2 Green spot on the boy's cheek.

Miniature Sheet 2



Examples from sheet 2 are scarce, the bulk of the stock most likely ending up on FDC.

Look to the sheet value where the '62c' appears to be underlined, as shown by the extra black below the '6', but look to the 'c' that clearly shows the lower arc cut through by a white line. The '2' narrowly misses this scratch as the number is placed higher, but it makes the base of the number look fuzzy. The central butterfly of the group in the bottom left corner has its right wing with a triangular piece shaved from the outer edge. Once again, orange and blue spots are present to help confirm this sheet position.

○	Sheet value	Black	Small black underline below the '62c' in the miniature sheet value. There is also a break in the 'c' of the value, where the break shows that it is part of a horizontal scratch through the letters.	-	✓
○	Sheet value	Orange	Tiny orange spot just to the right of the right leg of the 'M' of 'MINIATURE'.	-	
○	Left selvedge	Orange	Tiny orange spot near the left edge of the sheet, left of the large butterfly level with the foot of the stamp at row 1/1.	-	
○	Left selvedge	Orange	Tiny orange spot right of the stem of the large toadstool in the bottom left corner. This is similar to a spot on MS#4, but is more prominent here.	-	
○	Left selvedge	Orange	The right wing of the small butterfly in the bottom left corner, just below the lower horizontal perfs, is shaved, with a wedge shaped piece cut out of it.	-	✓
○	Right selvedge	Orange	Prominent orange spot in the right selvedge top left of the group of toadstools of the group lower centre of the stamp at row 2/3.	-	
○	Lower selvedge	Blue	Tiny blue spot in the lower selvedge 3mm below the toadstools in the stamp at row 2/3.	-	
○	R1/3	Red	Two tiny red spots just above the top of the butterfly, level with the girl's chin.	H3	
○	R1/3	Blue	Tiny blue spot right of the girl's neck, near the vertical perfs.	G8	
○	R2/1	Orange	Tiny orange spot in the background, below the branch and left of the girl's upright arm.	G2	
○	R2/2	Red	Red fleck on the ground, bottom left of the frog's foot. This appears as a very short, near horizontal line.	M5	
○	R2/3	Blue	Blue spot in the background right of the centre of the girl's back.	H8	
○	R2/3	Black	Tiny black spot on the girl's upper arm, at centre, biased right.	I7	

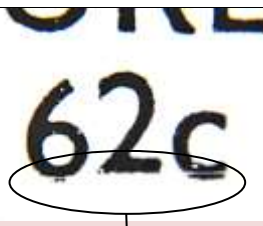
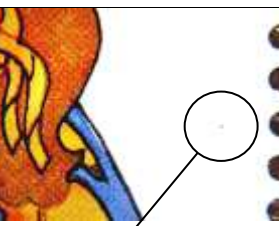
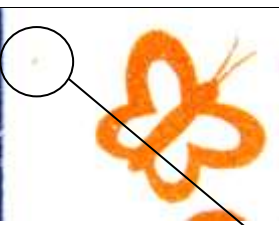
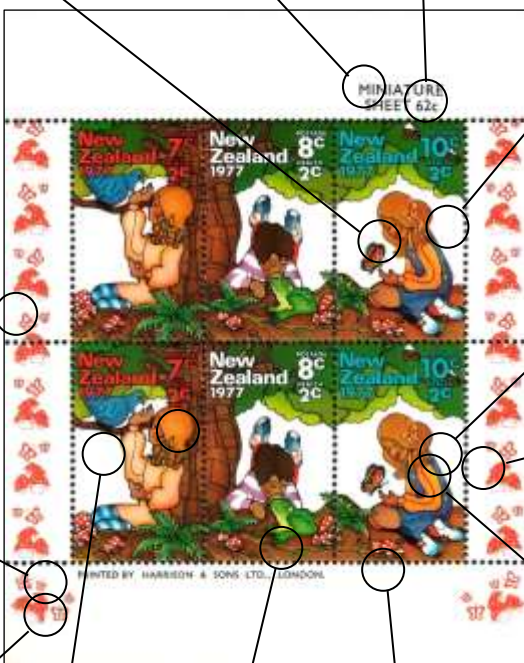
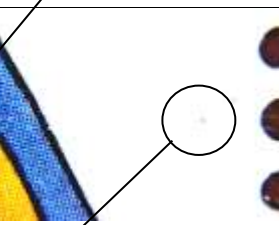
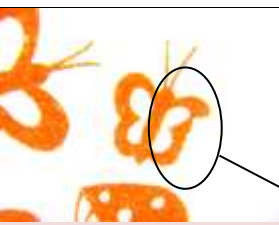
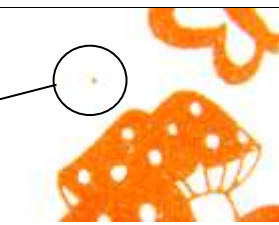
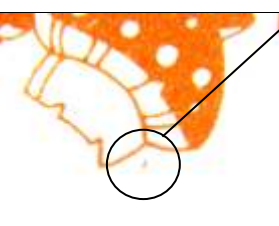
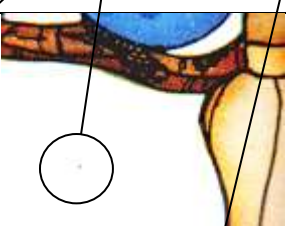
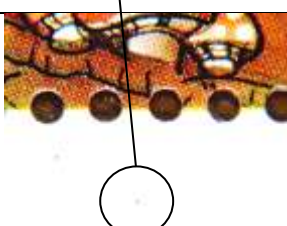
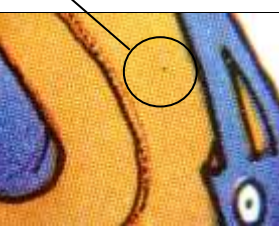
Transient varieties

R1/1 Red flaw at the top of the girl's leg, just below the tip of the frond.	R1/2 Yellow smudge at the foot of the second '7' of the date '1977'.	R2/1 Large red inverted 'heart' at the back of the girl's hair.	R2/1 Yellow litho-ring on the girl's upper arm.

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Miniature Sheet Plating

Sheet #2

 R1/3 Two tiny red spots just above the top of the butterfly.	 SV: Tiny orange spot just to the right of the 'M' of 'MINIATURE'.	 SV: The '62c' of the sheet value is underlined.	 R1/3 Blue spot right of the girl's back near the perfs.
 LS: Tiny orange spot near the left edge, left of the large butterfly by row 1/1.			 R2/3 Blue spot right of the girl's back near the vertical perfs.
 LS: The right wing of the small butterfly in the bottom left corner is shaved.			 RS: Prominent orange spot above the toadstools, alongside centre of row 2/3.
 LS: Orange spot right of the stem of the toadstool in the bottom left corner.	 R2/1 Orange spot left of the girl's arm and below the branch.	 Tiny blue spot in the lower selvedge below the toadstools in row 2/3.	 R2/3 Black spot on the girl's upper arm.
	 R2/2 Red fleck on the ground bottom left of the frog's foot.		

Miniature Sheet 3

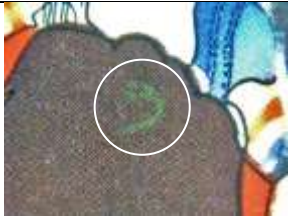


There are three distinguishing features of this miniature sheet, and because of this, the miniature sheet can be distinguished readily. Look for the straight edges of the butterflies and toadstools in the left selvedge. It appears that these are cut short when the image of the miniature sheet was laid down.

The larger butterfly at the top of the right selvedge has its lower left wing shaved straight, losing the outer curve. Also there is a significant break in the outline of the set of butterflies below the topmost toadstools, below the top of the right selvedge, as if someone had wiped through the wing. This is eye-noticeable.

○	Left selvedge	Orange	The left edge of the toadstools and butterflies in the left selvedge are cut straight vertically. This affects nearly all of the outer-lying figures in this selvedge, including the group in the bottom left corner.	-	✓
○	Left selvedge	Black	There is a short, horizontal black line that runs inside of the small butterfly level with the foot of the stamp at row 1/1. Depending upon the centring, the short black line may appear in the right wing or across the body.	-	
○	Right selvedge	Orange	The lower left edge of the larger butterfly at the top of the right selvedge is shaved. The normal curved wing is now flat. This butterfly is close to the upper perforations and may distract away from the variety because of this.	-	✓
○	Right selvedge	Orange	There is a break in the outline of the butterfly below the first set of toadstools in the right selvedge, bottom right of the '2c' of stamp at row 1/3.	-	✓
○	Imprint	Blue	Blue spot 2.5mm below the 'T' of 'LTD' in the imprint. This is faint.	-	
○	R1/2	Red	Green spot in the trunk top left of the boy's elbow, where the red colour of the trunk is missing at that spot.	I1	
○	R1/3	Blue	Tiny blue spot just behind the back of the girl, below the hairline.	H I7	
○	R1/3	Blue	Tiny blue spot between the butterfly and the girl's hair.	H I4	
○	R2/3	Blue	Blue spot in the background left of the girl's forehead.	F G3	

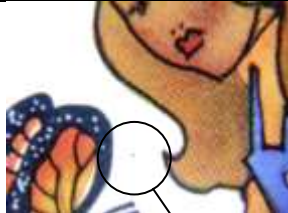
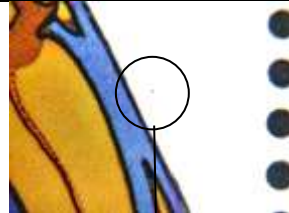
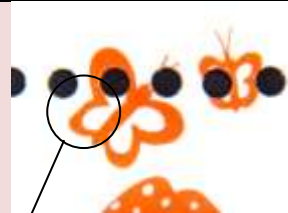
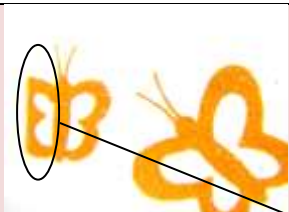
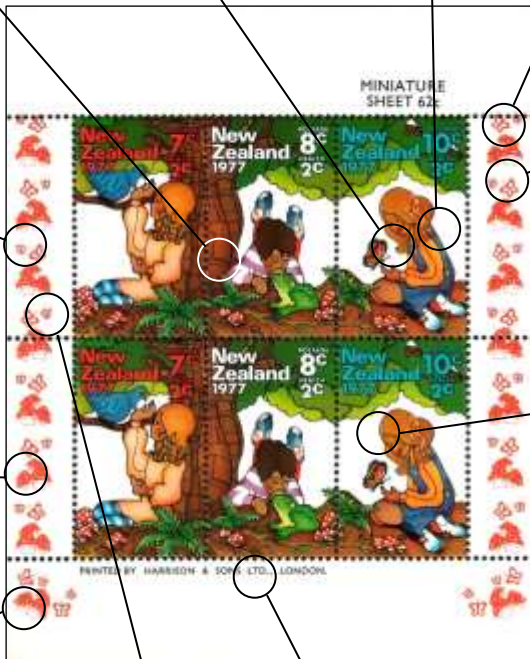
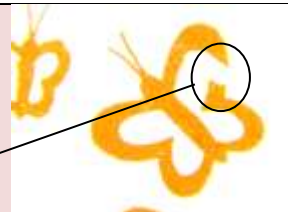
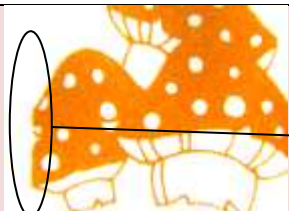
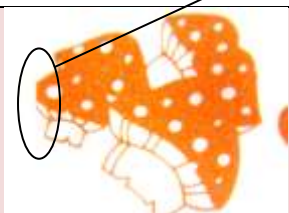
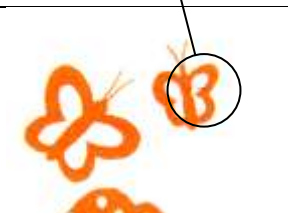
Transient varieties

			
R1/2 Bright blue patch near the hip of the frog's rear leg, where the yellow screen dots are missing.	R1/2 There is a green '3' on the boy's hair, where the blue/red colours are missing.	R1/3 Blue litho-ring in the light green canopy, below the 'n' of 'land'.	R2/3 Small curved yellow line bottom left of the '2' of the value, where blue is missing.

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Miniature Sheet Plating

Sheet #3

 R1/2 green fleck in the trunk of the tree.	 R1/3 Tiny blue spot in between the butterfly and the girl's hair.	 R1/3 Tiny blue spot close to the girl's back, below the hairline.	 RS: The left edge of the butterfly at the top of the right selvedge is shaved.
 LS: The left edge of the design in the left selvedge has straight edges.			 RS: Break in the outline of the butterfly
 LS: Left edge of the toadstools is straight.			 R2/3 blue spot left of the girl's forehead.
 LS: The leftmost toadstool of those in the bottom left corner, is shaved.	 LS: Short horizontal black line through the small butterfly, level with the foot of the stamp at row 1/1.	 Imprint: Blue spot 2.5mm below 'LTD' in the imprint.	

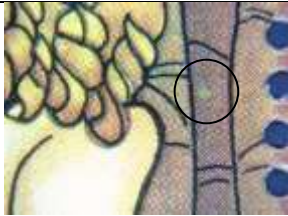
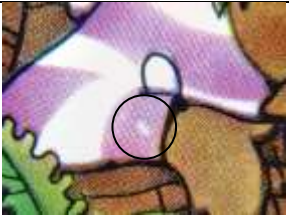
Miniature Sheet 4



Initially, look to the butterfly above the toadstools at the bottom left corner of the sheet. The lower wing is cut straight and the upper wing has two spurs into the inside. Take care here, as MS#6 also has a spur from the same hole, but only has one spur at top right, there are two here. Also look for a small orange spur into a white spot into the toadstool of the second group in the right selvedge. These will readily identify this sheet, and little else is needed.

There is a dark spot in row 1/2 to the top right of the toadstools on the roots of the tree. This is a large spot and looks part of the design so may be overlooked.

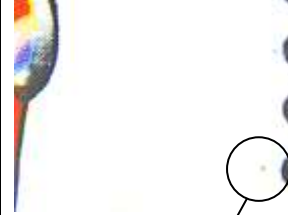
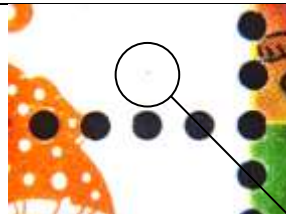
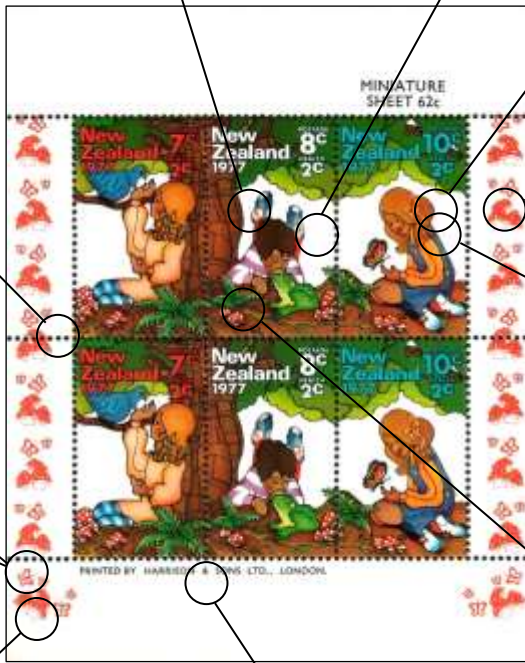
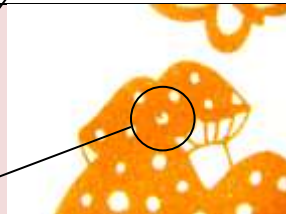
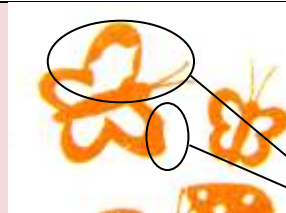
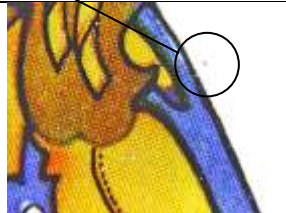
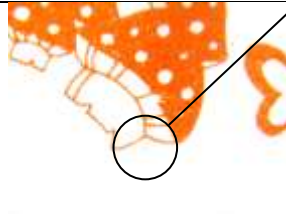
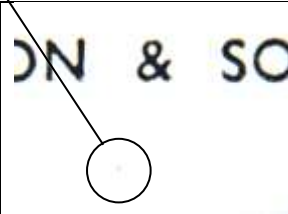
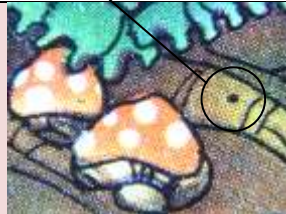
○	Left selvedge	Orange	The butterfly in the bottom selvedge just below the lowest toadstools has its upper wings cut into on the inside, and has the lower wing shaved on the front. This butterfly on MS#6 also shows a spur into the inside upper edge, close to the flaw here. But this example has two spurs, one either side.	-	✓
○	Left selvedge	Orange	Tiny orange spot just to the right of the stem of the lowest toadstool of the group at the foot of the left selvedge. This is similar to the same spot on MS#2, but is not so prominent here.	-	
○	Left selvedge	Orange	Tiny orange spot just above the middle set of horizontal perforations, alongside the foot of the stamp at row 1/1.	-	
○	Right selvedge	Orange	The middle toadstool of the second group in the right selvedge has a small spur into the white spot on the right.	-	
○	Imprint	Blue	Tiny blue spot 3mm below the '&' in the imprint, in the lower selvedge.	-	
○	R1/2	Black	Dark spot top right of the large toadstool at the bottom left corner of the stamp. This is a prominent spot and eye visible (if you know its location hidden in the complex design).	L M3	✓
○	R1/2	Orange	Orange spot in the background near the right perfs, level with the toe of the boy's foot on the right.	I8	
○	R1/2	Blue	Tiny blue spot just left of the boy's shoe. Between the shoe and the tree trunk.	F3	
○	R1/3	Red	Tiny red spot just behind the girl's hair.	F G7	
○	R1/3	Blue	Blue spot just right of the girl's hair.	G H7	

Transient varieties			
			
R1/1 Green litho-ring on the tree trunk behind the girl's hair.	R1/2 Orange dash to the left of the foot of the 'P' of 'POSTAGE'.	R2/1 Yellow litho-ring at the front of the girl's hair.	R2/2 White dash in the boy's cuff on the left.

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Miniature Sheet Plating

Sheet #4

			
	R1/2 Tiny blue spot close to the left edge of the shoe in the left.	R1/2 Orange spot near the perforations alongside the boy's foot.	R1/3 Tiny red spot just to the back of the girl's hair.
			
LS: Tiny orange spot just above the middle horizontal perfs alongside the base of R1/1.			The middle toadstool of the 2 nd group has a small spur in the white spot.
			
LS: The butterfly in the bottom left corner has its upper wing cut inside, and lower wing cut straight.			R1/3 Blue spot adjacent to the girl's back, level with the base of the hair.
			
LS: Tiny orange spot just to the right of the stem of the lowest toadstool in the left selvedge.		Imprint: there is a tiny blue spot in the lower selvedge, 3mm bottom left of the '&' in the imprint.	R1/2 Large spot top right of the toadstools at the foot of the stamp.

Miniature Sheet 5



Look to the top of the left selvage for a small horizontal line, composed of a series of small dots, top left of the small butterfly. This is close to the horizontal perfs, but just clear of them even when small colour shifts are seen. Also look to the stamp at row 2/1 where there is a large orange spot after the '1977'. If the orange colour was bolder, this would be eye visible.

There are multiple spots on this stamp that can be used to plate it.

○	Left selvage	Orange	Small horizontal line in the top of the left selvage above the butterfly at top left.	-	✓
○	Left selvage	Blue	Tiny blue spot just above the top of the larger butterfly, level with the girl's knees on the stamp at row 2/1.	-	
○	Left selvage	Blue	Blue spot between the small butterfly and the top right toadstool in the group in the bottom left corner.	-	
○	Left selvage	Orange	Orange spot in the extreme bottom left corner of the sheet bottom left of the toadstools and a further orange spot below that group. (Not illustrated).	-	
○	Right selvage	Orange	Orange spot in the right selvage left of the centre butterfly right of the stamp at row 2/3.	-	
○	Right selvage	Orange	Orange spot above the leftmost butterfly in the group in the bottom right corner.	-	
○	Imprint	Blue	Blue spot below the '&' in the imprint.	-	
○	R1/1	Blue	Tiny blue spot between the girl's fingers and the pigeon's beak; and a further spot above the pigeon's head.	D5, C5	
○	R1/1	Blue	Blue spot between the girl's knee and the toadstool.	K2	
○	R1/1	Blue	Tiny blue spot on the cuff of the girl's raised arm, close to the seam at the bottom left corner.	F4	
○	R1/1	Black	Tiny black spot in the 'c' of '2c' at the centre of the left side.	D7	
○	R1/2	Red	Tiny green spot at the top left corner of the stamp, where red screen dots are missing. (Not illustrated).	A1	
○	R1/2	Blue	Tiny blue spot in the white band of the boy's upper arm on the left side.	J3	
○	R1/3	Black	Tiny black spot on the girl's shoe on the left. (Not illustrated).	M6	
○	R1/3	Blue	Blue spot above the fern, bottom left of the butterfly.	J2	
○	R2/1	Orange	Orange spot in the leaves, right of '1977'. This is a prominent spot that resembles a transient flaw, but is constant.	C D3	✓
○	R2/1	Blue	Tiny blue spot in the background, 3mm top left of the girl's knee.	J2	
○	R2/1	Orange	Tiny orange spot at the centre of the white background, 4.5mm below the branch.	G H2	
○	R2/3	Blue	Tiny blue spot near the left perfs, left of the butterfly and above the fern on the small mound.	I1	

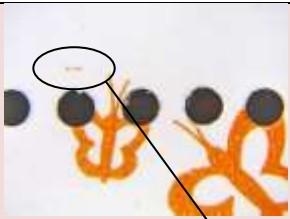
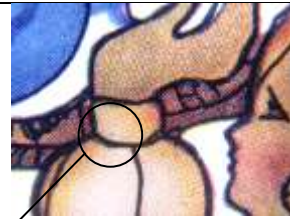
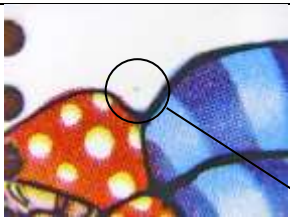
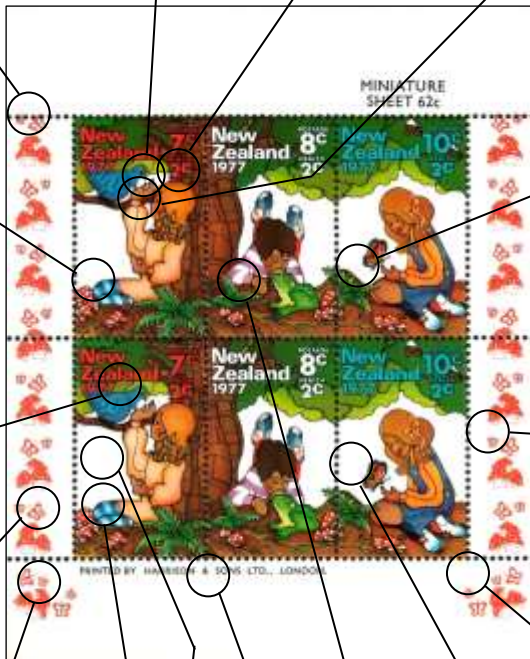
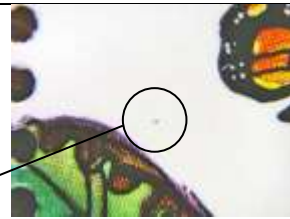
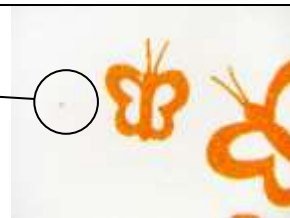
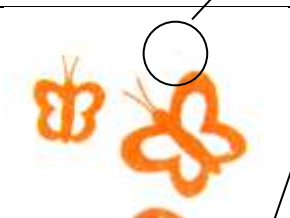
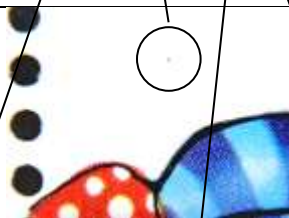
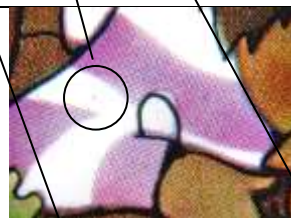
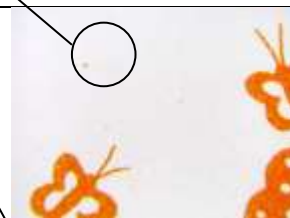
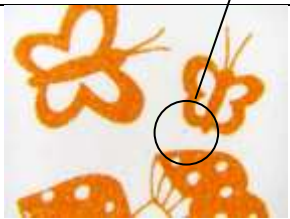
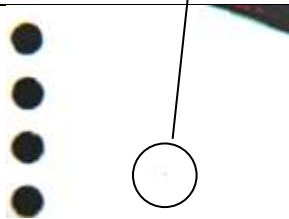
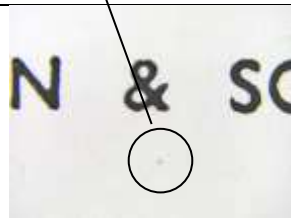
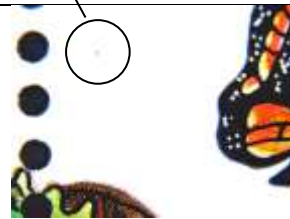
Transient varieties

R1/3 Blue litho-ring at the top edge above the 'P' of 'POSTAGE'.	R1/3 Blue litho-ring in the canopy below the 'n' of 'land'.	R1/3 Red spot on the girl's dress, below the wrist.	R2/1 Yellow patch on the elbow of the raised arm.
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1977 Health – Children in the Woods

Miniature Sheet Plating

Sheet #5

 LS: Short orange line at top of the left selvedge, top left of the butterfly.	 R1/1 blue spot between the girl's finger and the pigeon.	 R1/1 Black spot in the 'c' of '2c', close to the inside edge.	 R1/1 Tiny blue spot on the cuff, close to the inner seam.
 R1/1 Blue spot between the toadstool and the girl's knee.			 R1/3 blue spot between the fern and the butterfly.
 R2/1 Orange spot to the right of '1977'.			 RS: Orange spot in the right selvedge left of the central butterfly by row 2/3.
 LS: Tiny blue spot just above the larger butterfly, level with the knee of the girl in row 2/1.	 R2/1 Tiny blue spot in the background 3mm above the girl's knee.	 R1/2 Tiny blue spot in the white band of the upper arm on the left.	 RS: Orange spot above the lowest butterfly in the right selvedge.
 LS: Blue spot above the toadstools at the foot of the left selvedge.	 R2/1 Tiny orange spot at the centre of the white background, 4.5mm below the branch.	 Imprint: Blue spot below the ampersand in the lower margin.	 R2/3 Tiny blue spot close to the left perfs, left of the butterfly and above the hill.

Miniature Sheet 6



Near the bottom of the left selvage there is a prominent orange spot or spur to the right of the lower set of toadstools alongside the foot of the stamp at row 2/1, that will readily identify this sheet. Also look for the white spur into the upper edge of the butterfly in the bottom left corner. This may be confused with a similar spur on sheet #4 but the latter has two spurs, this has just one. There are many blue spots to be seen that will confirm this miniature sheet, especially those by the antennae of the butterflies in the left selvage.

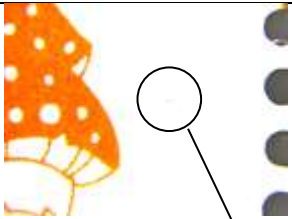
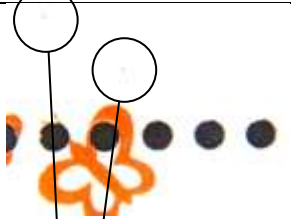
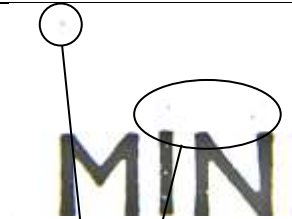
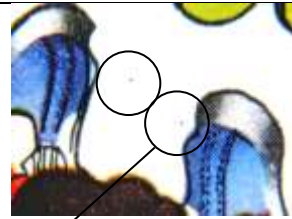
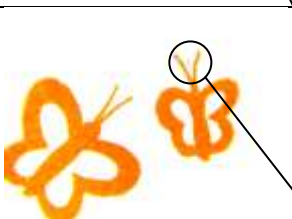
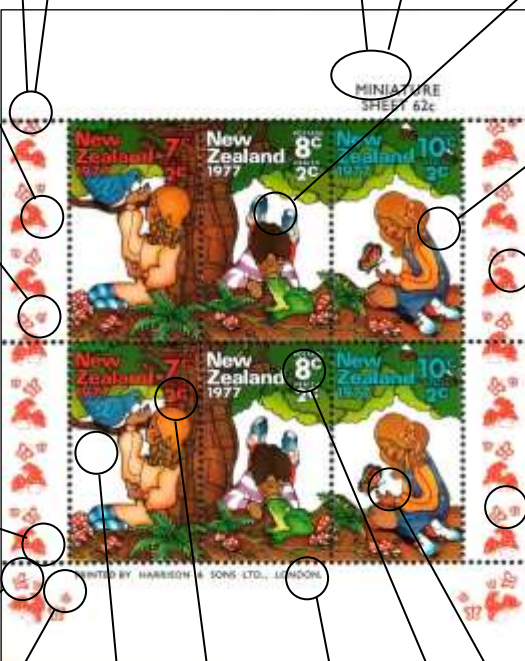
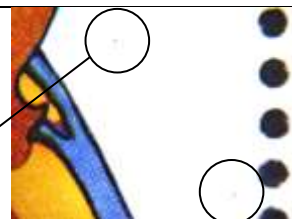
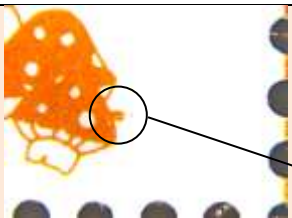
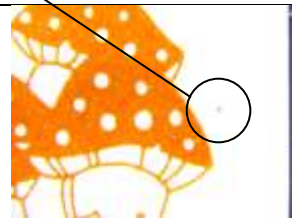
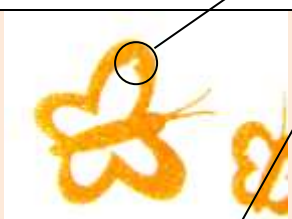
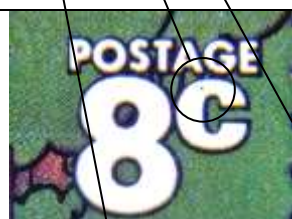
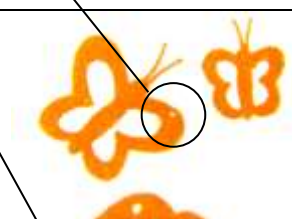
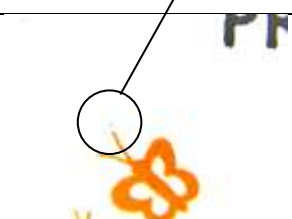
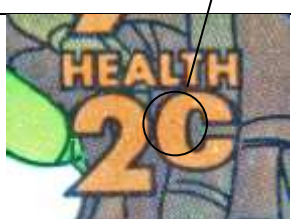
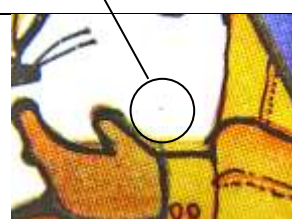
○	Left selvage	Blue	Two tiny blue spots at the top of the left selvage, 2mm above the butterflies. There is also an orange spot 1mm above the right butterfly	-	
○	Left selvage	Blue	Tiny blue spot 1mm right of the butterfly level with the centre of the stamp at row 1/1.	-	
○	Left selvage	Blue	Blue spot in the left selvage between the antennae of the small butterfly, left of the girl's knees of the stamp at row 1/1.	-	
○	Left selvage	Blue	Two additional white spots on the cap of the toadstool that appears just below the middle horizontal perfs, alongside the top of row 2/1. (Not illustrated).	-	
○	Left selvage	Orange	Prominent orange spur from the right side of the toadstool just above the lowest horizontal perfs adjacent to the foot of row 2/1.	-	✓
○	Left selvage	Blue	Blue spot in the left selvage pointed to by the antennae of the rightmost butterfly of the group in the bottom left corner.	-	
○	Left selvage	Orange	White spur into the upper wing edge of the large butterfly in the group in the bottom left corner. This could be mistaken for a similar spur on sheet #4, but that example has two spurs.	-	✓
○	Right selvage	Orange	Tiny orange spot at the top of the right selvage, 1.5mm above the top row of perfs, above the 2 nd perf. (Not illustrated).	-	
○	Right selvage	Blue	Blue spot right of the third group of toadstools in the right selvage, opposite the girl's arm of the stamp at row 1/3.	-	
○	Right selvage	Orange	White spot in the edge of the upper right wing of the butterfly right of the girl's foot in row 2/3.	-	
○	Imprint	Orange and blue	Orange and blue spots appear below the 'DON' of 'LONDON' in the imprint.	-	
○	Sheet value	Blue	Three blue spots above the letters 'MIN' of 'MINIATURE' in the top selvage. With a further blue spot 3mm top left of the 'M'.	-	
○	R1/2	Blue	Two blue spots appear between the boy's feet.	F5	
○	R1/3	Blue	Two tiny blue spots one behind the nape of the neck, the other by the vertical perfs, left of the top of the arm.	G7, H8	
○	R2/1	Black	Tiny black spot in the 'c' of '2c' on the left side.	C/D7	
○	R2/1	Blue	Blue spot at the centre of the white background, 4mm below the branch.	G2	
○	R2/2	Blue	Tiny blue spot in the 'c' of '8c', at its top.	B8	
○	R2/3	Blue	Blue spot in the background above the girl's wrist.	J4	

Transient varieties

R1/3 White patch on the girl's hair left of the mouth.	R1/3 White patch in the girl's hair above the forehead.	R2/1 Significant yellow patch on the girl's hair above the forehead.	R2/3 Red(ish) patch in the dark green canopy, below the '2c'.
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1977 Health – Children in the Woods

Miniature Sheet Plating Sheet #6

 LS: Blue spot in the left selvage right of the 2nd set of toadstools	 LS: Tiny orange spot 1mm above the butterfly at the top of the left selvage.	 SV: Three blue spots above 'MIN' in the top selvage and a further blue spot 3mm left.	 R1/2 Two tiny blue spots in between the heels of the boy's shoes.
 LS: Blue spot between the antennae of the small butterfly.			 R1/3 Two tiny blue spots behind the girl's neck and back.
 LS: Prominent orange spot right of the lower toadstools by R2/1.			 RS: Blue spot in the right margin, right of the 3rd group of toadstools.
 LS: White spur into the upper wing edge.	 R2/1 Tiny blue spot in the white background, 4mm below the branch.	 R2/2 Tiny blue spot in the 'c' of '8c' near the top.	 RS: Tiny white spot in the edge of the butterfly alongside the girl's foot in R2/3.
 LS: Blue spot by antennae in the small butterfly at the bottom left corner.	 R2/1 Black spot in the 'c' of '2c'.	 Imprint: Orange and blue spots under the 'DON' of 'LONDON'.	 R2/3 Blue spot above the girl's wrist.

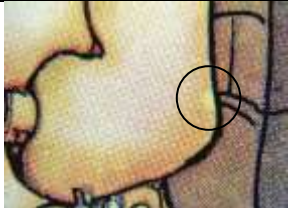
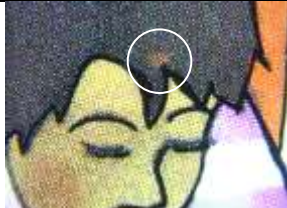
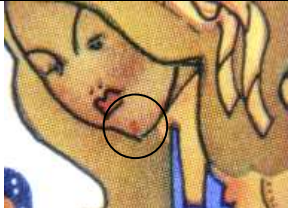
Miniature Sheet 7



In the imprint there are two varieties to look out for. There is a black spot to the bottom left of the first 'O' of 'LONDON'. This is similar to that found on sheet #9, so take care. Also, look to the ampersand, where there are two spots above the right tail. To confirm, look for the prominent orange spot in the white background left of the girl's arm in row 2/1.

○	Left selvedge	Black	There is a constant, well placed, black spot, as a 'cap' on the larger butterfly of the pair adjacent to the lower part of the stamp at row 2/1.	-	
○	Left selvedge	Orange	Two tiny orange spots at the foot of the stem of the large toadstool of the group in the bottom left corner.	-	
○	Right selvedge	Orange	Orange spot on the right side of the top toadstools of the second group in the right selvedge. Opposite the middle of the stamp at row 1/3.	-	
○	Imprint	Black	Black spots above the tail of the '&' in the imprint.	-	✓
○	Imprint	Black	Black spot bottom left of the first 'O' of 'LONDON' in the imprint. (Similar sheet #9).	-	
○	R1/2	Green	There are two yellow spots in the leaves below the '2c'.	D7-D8	
○	R1/2	Blue	There is a white, to light red, spot in the dark green foliage, near the top horizontal perfs, top left of the 'w' of 'New'.	A2 3	
○	R2/1	Orange	Orange spot in the white background left of the girl's arm and 4.5mm below the branch. There is also a tiny blue spot 2mm below this. This spot is prominent.	G H2	✓
○	R2/1	Blue	Tiny white spot just above the pigeon's eye.	D4 5	

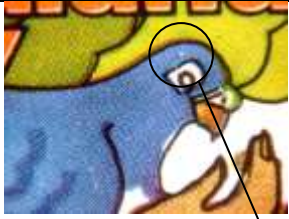
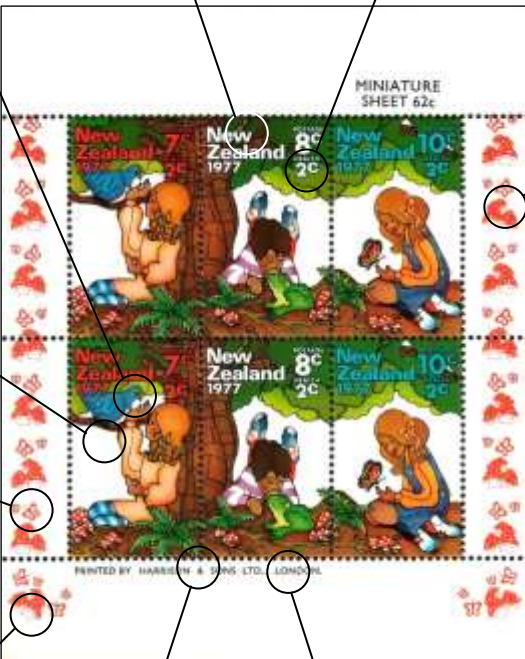
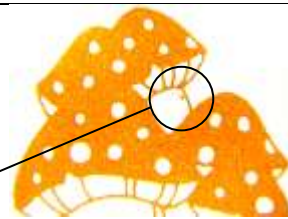
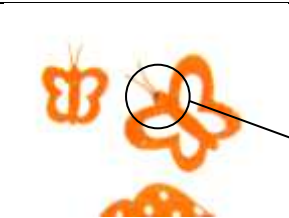
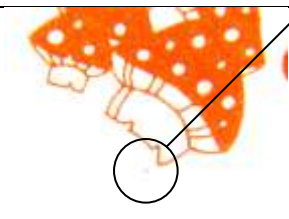
Transient varieties

			
R1/1 Vertical white scratch through the lower toadstool, in the bottom left corner of the stamp.	R2/1 Yellow patch on the girl's elbow.	R2/1 Series of yellow spots on the girl's hair	R2/2 Transient orange patch on the boy's fringe.
			
R2/2 Large speckled green patch on the tree trunk, left of the boy's arm, where the red colour is poorly printed.	R2/3 red flaw on the girl's chin, as if a tattoo.		

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Miniature Sheet Plating

Sheet #7

 R2/1 White spot above the eye of the pigeon.	 R1/2 Light red spot in the foliage above the left arm of the 'w' of 'New'.	 R1/2 There are two yellow spots below the 'c' of '2c' of the value.	
 R2/1 Prominent orange spot under the girl's arm.			 RS: Small orange spot in the stem of the top toadstool of the 2nd group.
 LS: Constant black 'cap' on the butterfly, left of the girl's knees of row 2/1.			
 LS: Pair of tiny orange spots just below the large toadstool of the group at bottom left.	 Imprint: Small spots above the right tail of the ampersand in the imprint.	 Imprint: Tiny black spot bottom left of the first 'O' of 'LONDON'. (Similar to sheet #9).	

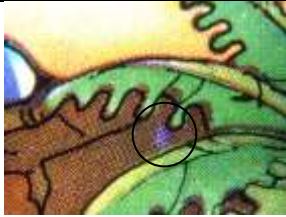
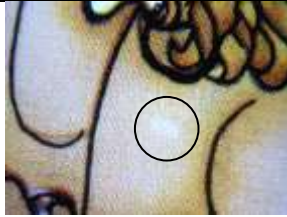
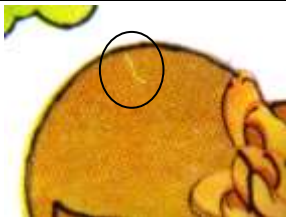
Miniature Sheet 8



There are few varieties that affect this miniature sheet. Look to the small butterfly at the foot of the left selvedge, the rightmost of the group in the bottom left corner, to see that its right edge is shaved vertical. Also, look at the same group of toadstools, where on the leftmost toadstool, the leftmost spot is ragged on its right side, having multiple spurs into the orange colouring as if dragged.

○	Sheet value	Black	There is a white hole in the left leg of the 'M' of 'MINIATURE', roughly one third of the way up the leg.	-	
○	Left selvedge	Orange	The leftmost white hole in the leftmost toadstool of the group in the bottom left corner is ragged, with white spurs into the orange colour on the right side.	-	✓
○	Left selvedge	Orange	The right edge of the wing of the small butterfly of the group in the bottom left corner, is shaved vertically.	-	✓
○	Right selvedge	Orange	Orange spot between the toadstool and butterfly in the group at top right in the right selvedge.	-	
○	Lower selvedge	Orange	Orange spot in the lower selvedge left of the butterflies and 7mm below the centre of the stamp at row 2/3.	-	
○	R1/2	Blue	Two yellow spots appear in the dark green foliage, below the 'c' of '8c', where blue screen dots are missing.	B C8	
○	R2/2	Blue	Light red spot in the dark green foliage below the 'nd' of 'land'. This is where the blue colour is missing a few screen dots.	C D5	
○	R2/3	Red	Yellow spot at the back of the girl's hair, where a few red screen dots are missing. This looks very similar to the transient varieties, but is constant.	F6	
○	R2/3	Blue	Tiny blue spot just left of the butterfly's upper wing.	H I 2/3	

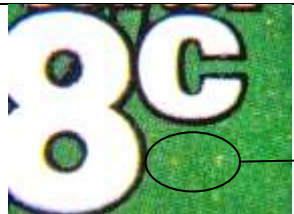
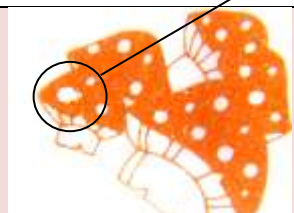
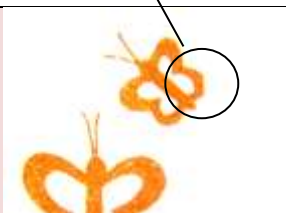
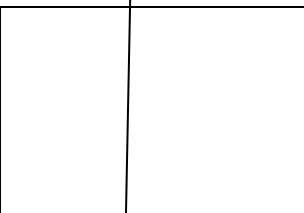
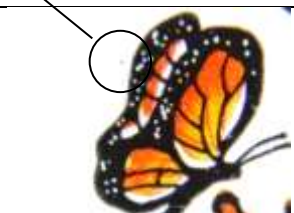
Transient varieties

			
R1/1 Green spot on the back of the girl's hand by her waist.	R1/3 Yellow patch on the girl's knee.	R2/1 Purple patch on the brown log amongst the fern leaves.	R2/1 Yellow patch on the girl's bodice.
			
R2/2 Yellow litho-ring on the frog's knee.	R2/2 Large red patch on the tree trunk, left of the boy's shoulder.	R2/3 Irregular shaped yellow scratch at the top of the girl's hair.	This miniature sheet has a lighter yellow shade, illustrated by the red squared pattern on the front of the girl's dress.

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Miniature Sheet Plating

Sheet #8

	 SV: There is a hole in the left leg of the 'M' of 'MINIATURE'.		
 R1/2 Yellow spots in the tree below the 'c' of '8c' where the blue is missing.		 RS: Orange spot between the butterfly and toadstools at top of the right selvedge.	
 R2/2 Light red spot in the foliage below the 'nd' of 'land'.		 R2/3 Yellow spot at the back of the girl's hair where the red is missing.	
 LS: On the leftmost toadstool of the group at bottom left, the leftmost hole is ragged on the right.	 LS: The right edge of the wing of the small butterfly is shaved.	 Orange spot in the lower selvedge left of the butterflies 7mm below the centre of row 2/3.	 R2/3 Tiny blue spot just left of the wings of the butterfly.

Miniature Sheet 9

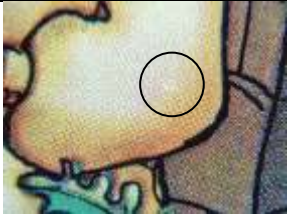
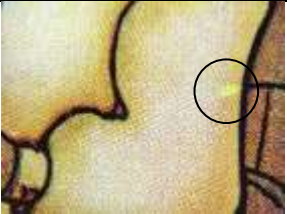
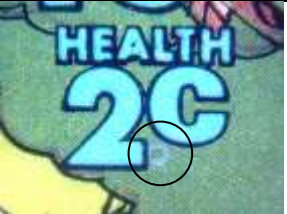


Look for the large orange spot at the centre of the left selvedge, in some examples almost cut off by the perforations. This spot appears to the left, in amongst the toadstools of the central group. No further examination of this sheet is necessary.

The spot bottom left of the 'O' of 'LONDON' is similar to that found of sheet #7, so beware. Also beware of the constant yellow patch at the top of the girl's hair on the stamp at row 2/1. This closely resembles many transient varieties seen and cannot be differentiated from them. Here the yellow spot is constant.

○	Left selvedge	Orange	Additional white spot on the left edge of the leftmost toadstool, of the group at the top of the left selvedge.	-	
○	Left Selvedge	Orange	Large orange spot by the horizontal perforations at the centre of the left selvedge, left of the toadstool.	-	✓
○	Left selvedge	Orange	Tiny bite out of the upper left edge of the butterfly opposite 'ZEALAND' of the stamp at row 2/1.	-	
○	Left selvedge	Orange	Orange spot left of the butterfly, left of the centre of the stamp at row 2/1.	-	
○	Left selvedge	Orange	Small spur on the antennae of the tiny butterfly bottom left of the 'P' of 'PRINTED', in the group in the bottom left corner of the left selvedge.	-	
○	Right selvedge	Orange	Orange spot top right of the larger butterfly at the top of the right selvedge, just below the top horizontal line of perforations.	-	
○	Right selvedge	Orange	Tiny orange spot just to the top left of the larger butterfly at the group at centre, alongside the stamp at row 1/3.	-	
○	Imprint	Black	Black spot bottom left of the first 'O' of 'LONDON' in the imprint (similar to sheet #5).	-	
○	R1/1	Blue	Tiny white spot on the back of the pigeon, bottom right of the last '7' of the year '1977'.	D3	
○	R1/2	Blue	Light red spot in the mid-green foliage of the tree, 1.5mm left of the '2c'.	D6	
○	R1/3	Red	Two tiny green spots in the girl's hair, just below the girl's mouth.	H/I 4/5	
○	R2/1	Red	Yellow spot on the top of the girl's hair, where the red screen dots are missing. (Do not use this to plate the sheet, as this closely resembles transient varieties seen elsewhere, but it is constant here).	E7	
○	R2/2	Red	Yellow spot on the boy's red sock on the right, just below the toe of the shoe.	H6	

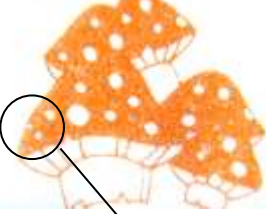
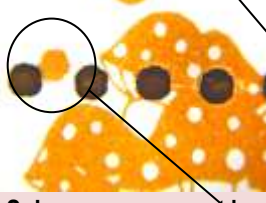
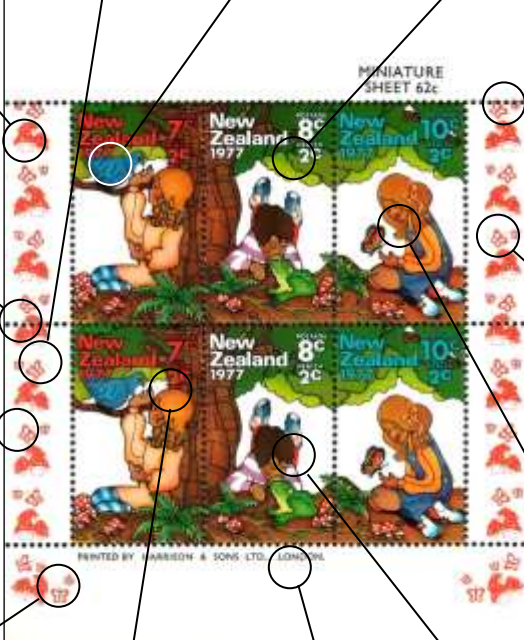
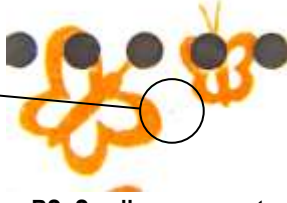
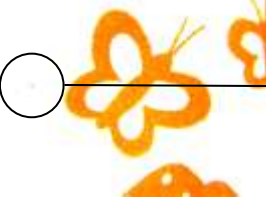
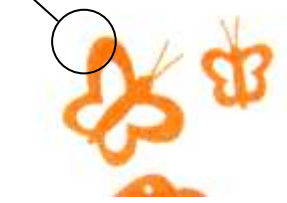
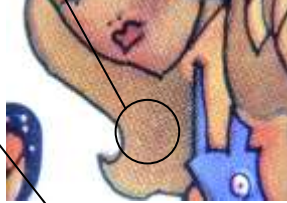
Transient varieties

			
R1/1 Yellow bullseye flaw on the elbow next to the tree trunk.	R1/3 Blue litho-ring in the light green foliage, below '1977'.	R2/1 Yellow fleck on the girl's upper arm, next to the tree trunk.	R2/3 Blue litho-ring just to the right of the foot of the '2c'.

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Miniature Sheet Plating

Sheet #9

 LS: Additional white spot on the left edge of the toadstool.	 LS: Bite out of the top edge of the butterfly alongside row 2/1	 R1/1 Tiny white spot on the back of the pigeon, bottom right of the '7'.	 R1/2 Light red spot in the green canopy left of the '2c'.
 LS: Large orange spot by the perforations in the left selvedge			 RS: Small orange spot right of large butterfly at top of the right selvedge.
 LS: Orange spot in the left selvedge left of the butterfly by row 2/1.			 RS: Tiny orange spot just to the top left of the large butterfly, by row 1/3.
 LS: Small orange spur on the left antennae of the butterfly at bottom left.	 R2/1 Yellow fleck at the top of the girl's hair. Resembles a transient variety.	 Imprint: Small black spot bottom left of the first 'O' of 'LONDON' (like sheet 5).	 R1/3 Two tiny green spots in the girl's hair below the chin.
			 R2/2 Tiny yellow spot on the right edge of the boy's sock.

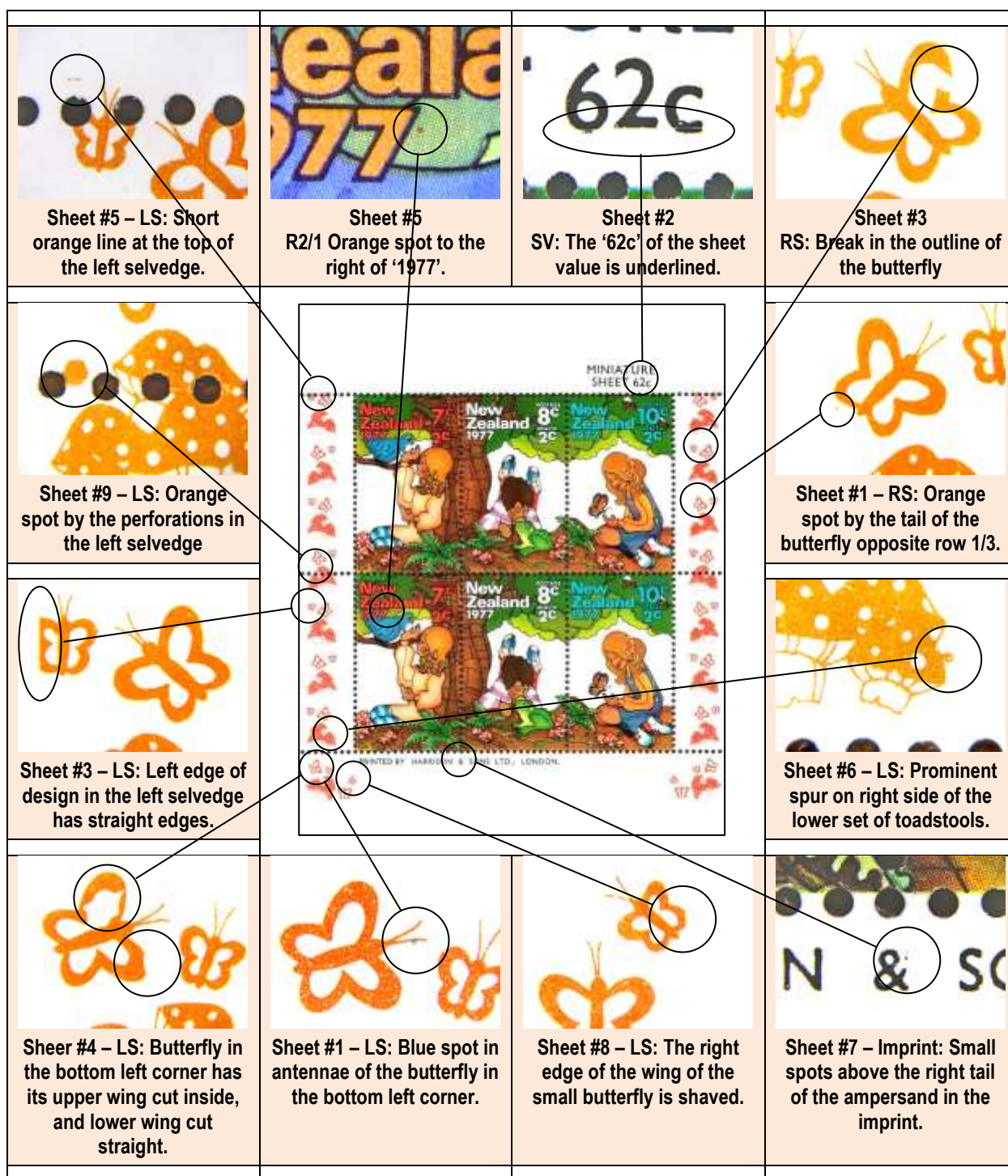
1977 Health – Children in the Woods

Miniature Sheet Plating

Sheet Identification

The following map shows the location of prominent varieties that are found on individual miniature sheets. This diagram can be used to help plate individual miniature sheets against its position in the master sheet arrangement. For convenience, these are numbered 1 through 9, top left to bottom right.

Refer to the diagram below to identify significant varieties for the miniature sheet that you wish to plate, then go to the detail sheet to confirm using minor varieties illustrated there.



References

Naish DE.G and McNaught K.J., editors, 'The Postage Stamps of New Zealand, Vol. VI', p226-227, published by the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand, 1977.

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