

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N. Z. NOTES

by Colin Hamilton

1960 Pictorial Paper Problems.

Our postbag suggests that, week in and week out, the "original" and "chalky" papers of the 1960-66 Pictorials cause confusion more frequently than perhaps any other single aspect of New Zealand stamps.

The confusion arises, of course, in those values which are listed in the C. P. Catalogue (and other catalogues) as existing on both papers, i. e. the 1d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 2/-, 5/- and 10/-. None of the other values should give any trouble, since each is found only on one paper or the other, the $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 2d, 8d, 9d, 1/-, 1/3d, 1/6d, 1/9 bistre, 2/6d, 3/- Sepia and £1 always being on the original (or "unsurfaced") paper, and the 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 5d, 7d, 1/9d multicolour and 3/- multicolour always being on chalky paper.

It would be more accurate to describe the listed chalky paper as "heavily chalk-surfaced", because during the currency of the 1960 Pictorials, experiments were carried out with various stamp printing papers, with a view to improving the quality of the finished product. Some values printed on experimental papers were issued normally, and students will vouch for the fact that a series of different positive reactions are obtainable under the ultra-violet lamp in these values.

It is, no doubt, the existence of the experimental, apparently "semi-surfaced", papers which leads to the difficulties encountered by so many collectors (and, incidentally, to the optimistic - and erroneous - identification of so many 4d's as "the good one"). The fact is, however, that in all seven dual-paper values, the heavily chalk-surfaced variety is quite distinctive, and visibly so, without recourse to the lamp which can, in this case, create more problems than it solves.

Characteristically, the true chalky paper is much whiter, most noticeable when viewed from the back (unprinted) side. When viewed from the front, under a good glass, the paper surface is smooth, and free from "pitting". Finally, the printing ink on chalky stamps has a much denser, more solid appearance, free from blotchiness. This last characteristic is most prominent in the main background colours of the "Flower" values. Any stamp not satisfying all of these requirements should be classified as original paper.

To assist those who find this a troublesome issue, we have prepared a reference set of identified copies, which is offered elsewhere in this issue of the Bulletin.

K. G. V 2½d Deep Blue Recess Print.

A week or two ago, in a small auction lot, I came across a block of these stamps which included a copy with a prominent, well-defined horizontal line about 7mm. long running across the King's chin and neck. The block (an irregular one) was not positional, but the presence of some right selvedge proved that the variety was in vertical row 10.

We have no recollection of seeing this variety previously, and further inquiry revealed no reference to it. At the time, therefore, the most likely explanation seemed to be that it was a chance "one-off" mark.

But just the other day a second, identical example came into my hands, this time in a block with bottom selvedge, placing the variety in horizontal row 10. The sheet position would thus be R10/10.

If constant, as now seems distinctly possible, it is difficult to credit that this is a previously unrecorded variety, being so easily visible to the naked eye. Can anyone, therefore, produce a block showing R10/10 without the variety? Both examples seen have been perf 14 x 13½, but since only one plate was used to print the 2½d, blocks in the other perf (14 x 14½) would provide equally valid evidence. Any additional confirmation of the presence of the variety would also be of interest, of course.

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR C. P. CATALOGUE USERS IN U. K.

Catalogue owners will have noticed that, in recent Revisions, the \$ and c. symbols have been dropped from the price columns and replaced by a note at the head of each price column. This is part of the modernisation and streamlining process, and will ultimately be standardised throughout the Catalogue.

We would emphasise the point that all pricing throughout the Catalogue remains in N. Z. currency. This point is made because, with growing familiarity with decimal currency in the U. K. there is a natural and increasing tendency to interpret, say, 3.00 as £3, or 70 as 70p. (and we are aware of at least one customer who has already made this mistake!) In fact, of course, (taking the random examples used above) 3.00 indicates \$3.00 N. Z. and 70 indicates 70c N. Z. The equivalent U. K. prices would therefore be £1.50 and 35p respectively.

SUMMER SELECTION

A mixture of interesting and unusual offers, in no particular sequence, so a thorough reading is recommended.

- 901 N. Z. Christmas 1960-1970. A neatly mounted and well-written-up collection on 43 album leaves, with a good representation of plate blocks (incl. 1960, 1961 & 1962), varieties in mint blocks and singles, and first day covers. In addition, coloured postcards illustrating the Old Master paintings used in the stamp designs are complete. An excellent basis for expansion in these beautiful issues. 221 stamps, 10 covers and 10 coloured cards. The collection, a bargain at£16.50
- 902 1963 Christmas Pair, Imperf. This item has some vertical creasing at the extreme right, but is nonetheless an example of a major modern variety, and rare. The imperforate pair (cat. C. P. £90, S. G. £120) £45.00

- 903 1969 Christmas. Complete set of plate blocks and imprint blocks on both the watermarked and the unwatermarked paper. Such sets are already becoming elusive. The set of 16 blocks (of 6 stamps each) £ 2.50
- 904 1969 Law Society 3c. The catalogued "Pale Sky" variety on R10/6 (plate 2223). This stamp is also notable for the withered appearance of the lawn and tree. Offered in mint block of 10 30p
- 905 1960. 1/- Timber Industry. Mint block of 4 from the late plate 10B10C including the flaw on I of INDUSTRY on R7/7. A good naked-eye variety £ 1.50
- 906 1960 Pictorial 4/3 Booklet. The stitched booklet (panes without numeral) complete with one pane of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d, two of the 1d and two of the 3d. As a bonus (for as long as stocks last) we will select an example in which at least one pane shows clear Chambon perf characteristics. The booklet 75p
- 907 K. G. V. Plate Block. 4d Violet "Official" perf 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ (KO5d) in top left corner block of 4 with plate no. 20. Two minor age stains, but otherwise very fresh, and a scarce block (cat. £12.50) £9.50
- 908(a) K. G. V. Violet/Deep Purple. Wonderful lot of varieties on this most fascinating of stamps. In perf 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ Violet, there the R1/6 and R4/10 re-entries (the former with Official overprint) and in the 14 x 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ Deep Purple there are the R3/8 and R10/12 re-entries plus a further two reentries showing as doubling to the right of the King's moustache and nose. Finally there are three different Plate 44 "Cross on Crown" retouches, perf 14 x 14 $\frac{1}{4}$. All used except the R3/8 re-entry, which is in mint pair with normal, overprinted Official. The variety lot £8.00
- (b) As above. The rare 4d perf 14 x 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ from Plate 44 in violet (listed in the 1972 C. P. Cat. Revision as K5g shade 2). The shade is unmistakable, and this copy is confirmed conclusively as belonging to Plate 44 by being the R3/8 re-entry. The year of the postmark is somewhat indistinct, but has all the appearance of being 1926. A remarkable item £12.50
- 909 K. G. V. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ Deep Blue. Super specialist set of 4 pieces, all with lower selvedge, being (1) block of 4 perf 14 x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ in the deep blue shade (from a sheet with "two-perfs"), (2) block of 4 in slate blue perf 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ (from a sheet perf 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ throughout), (3) another slate blue block perf 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$, including the R10/10 variety mentioned in the note elsewhere in this Bulletin and (4) a slate blue pair perf 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$, displaying marked plate wear. Three blocks and a pair, all mint £4.50
- 910(a) Second Sideface Die-Proofs of the 5d value in black and in carmine. Not the rarest of die-proofs, but certainly unusual enough to add that extra something to any collection. The two die-proofs £10.50
- (b) As above, but in black only. The die-proof £5.00
- 911 1899 Postage Dues. A short simplified set of the First Types, comprising the $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 3d, 4d, 5d and 6d. Six stamps, mint £3.00
- 912(a) Arms Types. The late (1956-58) issues of the 1/3d and £1 on Unsurfaced Paper with horizontal mesh. Inclusion of the 1/3 with wmk inverted gives absolute completion on this paper. The set of 3, lovely mint (cat. £12.60) £7.50
- (b) As above. Brilliant mint block of 8 of the 1/3 on unsurfaced paper, with wmk inverted. The block is from the top right corner of the sheet, and shows the sheet number in yellow on the top selvedge. The very scarce block £8.50
- 913 Q. E. 1/- Die 2 (C. P. N10b, S. G. 732a) another opportunity to acquire the rarest of all the Q. E. definitives, in perfect condition. Mint single £15.00

- 914(a) **Set A.** 12 stamps, being two each of the 1d, 3d, 6d, 2/-, 5/- and 10/- values representing the "original" and "chalky" paper in each value. Supplied fully identified, and ready to mount. An invaluable reference set, all mint except the 5/- on original paper, which is used. The reference set of 12 stamps £4.75
- (b) **Set B.** For those who do not collect to the top value, we can supply a similar set to 2/- only. 8 stamps, all mint 85p
- 915 **4d Puarangi on Chalky Paper, Mint.** The stamp many collectors think they have, but VERY few have! This copy is guaranteed by us to be C. P. 06b (S. G. 786a). Unmounted, but with the faintest suggestion of an indentation on the gummed side, hence the bargain price (the face is completely unaffected). One copy only of the mint rarity £50.00
- 916 **Q. E. 4d Official Major Variety.** During the printing of this value, one sheet of paper passed through the press "upside down", resulting in the design being printed on the gummed side, and the watermark being inverted-and-reversed. We offer a mint single of this interesting variety with full gum and printed design on one side, and the inverted-and-reversed watermark showing clearly on the other. The error stamp £25.00

1972 HEALTHS

- 2/8/72. 3c + 1c, 4c + 1c Tennis. Set of 2 mint 7p
- Miniature sheets (of 6 stamps). Set of two sheets 40p
- Imprint/Plate blocks of 10 stamps. One plate number each value. Complete set of 2 blocks 70p
- set on pictorial F. D. C., Auckland first day postmark 12p
- Health Camp postmarks. Set of six covers, each bearing a complete set of 1972 Health stamps, and each postmarked at a different Health Camp (Pakuranga, Maunu, Roxburgh, Glenelg, Otaki and Gisborne). The post offices at the Health Camps are open only on the first day of issue of the Health stamps each year.
- The set of 6 covers 90p

N. B. We can still offer a few similar sets of 6 covers from previous years as follows:-

1969	90p	1970	90p	1971	£1.25
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SOMETHING TO MULL OVER

It may be that a section of your N. Z. collection is lying dormant in a cupboard; possibly because you have developed it as far as you are able, or because your interest has been captured by another section (this can so easily happen when virtually every N. Z. issue has its own fascination!). If you have such a "dead" section in YOUR collection, why not consider cashing in on it? Others reading this may at this very moment be deciding to dispose of material of particular interest to you, and having the cash available for a possible nice buy is a comforting thought! Think about it, then let us know what you have to offer, whether it's a single stamp or a large highly specialised collection, or anything between the two extremes. If it's what we want, we'll pull out all the stops to meet your own price.

NOT NEW ZEALAND

- 917 **Australian Imperf Miniature Sheet.** The Capt. Cook Bicentenary Issue of 1970 (S. G. MS465). The complete miniature sheet, commercially used on piece 50p