

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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A PHILATELIC CORNUCOPIA !

by Colin Hamilton.

Since we are this month offering some outstanding material from the Queen Elizabeth Definitives of 1953-59, the time seems opportune to make one or two observations on these issues.

It is perhaps not generally appreciated (although even the most cursory examination of the relevant section of the C. P. Catalogue would show it to be true) that these issues present a kaleidoscope in miniature of virtually all things philatelic.

In the first place they are basically attractive designs, and varied, well chosen colours make for a very pleasing overall effect. The bi-coloured middle-values (9d - 1/9) introduce that little touch of contrast to the single colours of all the other values, and throughout there is a delicate range of shades to delight the eye.

Printing is by the "classic" recess or intaglio method, (the last N. Z. definitives to be so produced, incidentally) and this ensures fine definition, as well as a rich field for the seeker of the classic types of varieties, retouches and re-entries. It is interesting to note, however, that re-entries are confined to the middle-values, that is those printed by De La Rue & Co. Ltd., who were evidently equally ready to use either means of repairing a fault. On the other hand Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. Ltd., who were responsible for all the other values, restricted themselves to retouching (generally of very high quality).

De La Rue's repair methods can frequently result in the existence of a whole series of states of a particular variety. For example pre-flaw (normal), flaw, retouch, and finally re-entry. In addition, their use of the same centre plates in conjunction with the frame plates of different values (e.g. centre plate 1 was used in the printing of the 9d, 1/- and 1/6 values, and centre plate 2 was used for all four values) means that the same centre plate varieties often exist on more than one value, though not necessarily in all states.

Plate block collectors will find ample scope, and booklet panes are also well represented, though only in two values (1d and 3d).

Inverted watermarks exist in many values, being quite common in the 1d and 3d, because the booklet plates were laid out in such a way that a proportion of the panes were inverted in relation to the others. In most other cases, however, such varieties are rare or very rare, and well worth looking out for.

Other varieties include the "double print, one albino", found in all four middle values, which resulted from a sheet of paper receiving an accidental uninked impression by passing through the press underneath another sheet. Subsequently such an uninked sheet would be returned to stock, later to pass through the press a second time, this time normally. The distinctive characteristic of this variety is the markedly blurred appearance of that part of the design which has been doubly impressed, due to damage to the fibres of the paper caused by the great pressure exerted during the recess printing process. The effect of the damage was to give the paper a quality similar to blotting paper.

Two values (the 1½d and the 3d "large figures") were surcharged, and these provisionals provide much interest for the specialist.

However brief, no survey of the Queen Elizabeth definitives can be made without reference to the stamps which were dispensed from counter coil machines. Between 1954 and 1960 various alterations were made in the make-up of these rolls, and in the positioning of the section numbers, to improve their usefulness to the counter clerks, and these changes, together with the existence of a considerable number of varieties, provide vast scope for a specialised collection.

Add to all these die alterations (in the 3d and 1/-), re-drawn designs (1d, 1½d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d, and 8d), experiments with perforating heads (in the 9d), changes of paper, and a specially designed series of Official stamps - in the writer's personal opinion these are among the most pleasing of all modern stamp designs - and you may be excused for asking "Where do I start?" The offers in this Bulletin will, we hope, go a long way to help in answering that question!

K. G. V 2½ Deep Blue

Following my note last month on the R10/10 "Scarred neck" variety we have had a report from Mr. F. Scrivener of Canterbury that he has in his collection a block from the bottom right corner of a sheet which shows R10/10 normal, i.e. without the variety. This is an interesting development, for two reasons:

- (1) The mark (of which it will be remembered two examples were seen) was certainly much too prominent and well-defined to be a transient plate scratch. In fact it showed all the signs of being more deeply engraved on the plate than the lines of the surrounding design.
- (2) Both examples seen showed little if any sign of plate wear, and must therefore have been from a fairly early printing. It follows therefore - if we rule out as an explanation a plate scratch which appeared and disappeared again during the life of the plate, and I feel pretty sure that we can - it follows that the flaw must be present on a significant proportion of the total issue, or even more interesting, that it was deliberately removed at some stage, and with recess printing, this raises the possibility of a re-entry.

Any further observations would of course be welcomed.

Showpex '72 Souvenir Sheet.

Although a general Stamp Fair (held at the Cafe Royal, London from 4th-9th September 1972) Showpex '72 produced a Souvenir Sheet which is of particular interest to N. Z. collectors. The designs selected for this sheet to illustrate the London theme of Showpex were both, strangely enough, N. Z. Health Stamp designs, being those of the 1947 1d + ½d (Eros) and the 1945 1d + ½d (Peter Pan). Reproductions in near-original issue colours are on an imperf sheet, gummed, and are in an attractive illustrated white card folder.

Showpex Souvenir Sheet. The attractive imperf. sheet as described above. Complete with illustrated card folder 30p

Many of the following offers are "one only", so we need hardly remind readers of the need to act quickly! And please state alternatives wherever possible.

Q. E. SPECIALISED

- 1001 (a) Plate Blocks. A complete set of plate numbers of the "small figure" ½d - 8d values (N1a - N8a). 33 different plates, all in mint blocks of 6. A superb lot £13.50
- (b) As above. A similar set, this time of the "large figure" designs (N31a - N37a), on both the original coarse paper and the later thick white paper issues. The 1d Plate 11 includes the outstanding R10/22 retouch, and the 2d's on coarse paper include plates 3 and 5 both with and without stops. 31 plate blocks, again all of six stamps each except the 4d white paper plate 16, which is in a block of four. Another fine complete collection (cat. £31 +) £25.00
- (c) As above. Provisional issues. Plate blocks complete of the 2d on 1½d

	"large figure" (N40a), with both sizes of surcharge dot, and in the 2½d on 3d plates 19 and 20 with wide setting of the surcharge (N42a) and plates 17 and 18 with the narrow setting (N42b). The set of 12 plate blocks of 6, mint £ 4.25	
	(d) As above. 2d on 1½d Error, surcharge on the "small figure" 1½d (N41a). Plate block of 6, mint. Rare	£37.50
	(e) As above. 2/6d - 10/- "Queen on Horseback". Plate Imprint blocks of 4. Set of four blocks, complete mint	£50.00
1002	(a) 1d "Large Figure" Major Variety. Very soon after printing from Plate 11 of this value commenced, a weak entry was noticed on R10/22. The plate was removed from the press, and this impression subjected to extensive retouching. We offer this variety in both states, each in a mint plate block of 6. The original weak entry state is very rare, and is an excellent naked eye variety. The two blocks, NV31a(1) & (2).....	£125.00
	(b) As above. The retouched state only, in mint plate block of 6. The variety plate block	£ 2.75
1003	2d "Small Figure", Variety. A fine set of three plate blocks from plate 17, showing (a) no sign of plate crack in bottom selvedge, (b) plate crack developing, and (c) really major damage. The set of three "progressive" blocks	£ 7.50
1004	3d "Small Figure", Inverted Watermark. Not the relatively common "invert" from a booklet pane, but the scarce one from a large sheet - proved by the fact that it is in a vertical block of 6 (2 x 3). The scarce block, mint ..	£ 7.50
	(We will be pleased to consider orders for a vertical strip of three, which proves equally conclusively that the variety is from a sheet, of course).	
1005	"Small Figure" design Plate Varieties (all varieties offered are illustrated in the C. P. Catalogue).	
	(a) 1d Plate 5, R4/6. Retouch under chin (NV2a). In mint corner block of 24	£ 3.75
	(b) 1½d Plate 14, R1/20. Retouch above Queen's head (NV3a). In mint selvedge block of 4	£ 3.50
	(c) 2d Plate 16, R4/2. Retouch to lapel of Queen's dress at right (NV4a). In mint selvedge block of 8	£ 4.00
	(d) 3d Plate 22, R5/11. Major retouching (NV5a). In mint selvedge block of 15, which also includes a constant flaw on the Queen's forehead on R4/12.	£ 2.50
	(e) 3d Plate 23, R8/3. Retouch at top left corner (NV5b). In mint selvedge block of 6	£ 4.50
	(f) 3d Plate 24, R6/6. Retouch to diadem at right (NV5c). In mint block of 4, which also includes R5/5 re-cutting of leaves at top left	£ 6.00
	(g) 3d Plate 24, R6/19. Retouching around central cross of diadem (NV5d). In pair with normal. Mint	£ 3.50
	(h) 3d Plate 26, R4/2. Retouching of Queen's right cheek and adjoining background (NV5e). In mint selvedge block of 4	£ 4.50
	(i) 6d Plate 6, R4/19. Retouch to Queen's left temple (NV7a (2)). In mint selvedge block of 12	£ 4.50
	(j) 8d Plate 20, R6/16. Both states of the retouch to the Queen's right sleeve and the background lines above (NV8a(1) and (2)), the first state being in pair with normal, and the second in selvedge block of 10. The variety pair and block	£ 7.00
	(k) 8d Plate 20, R9/4. Retouch to Queen's chin and adjacent background	

	(NV8b2). In mint selvage block of 4	£ 2.50
	(l) <u>3d Plate 21, R4/14.</u> Retouch above Queen's head (NV5h). In mint block of 4	£ 2.25
	(m) <u>3d Plate 21, R6/8.</u> Background retouched adjacent to Queen's right eye (NV5j). In mint block of 4	£ 2.50
	(n) <u>3d Plate 25, R2/4.</u> Extensive retouching to Queen's left cheek (NV5m). In mint selvage block of 4	£ 3.50
	(o) <u>3d Plate 25, R6/14.</u> Background retouched at right of Queen's hair (NV5n). In mint block of 4	£10.00
	(p) <u>3d Plate 26, R1/14.</u> Retouch to background between Queen's chin and right shoulder (NV5p). In mint selvage block of 4	£ 2.50
1006	<u>Middle-Value Sheet Value Blocks.</u> A magnificent set of 16 blocks, 9d - 1/9d, including the whole range of interesting variations on the 9d, 1/- and 1/9d due to the occasional issue of these values in half-sheets (see C. P. Catalogue, Permanent Page N6). The 16 sheet value blocks of 4, mint, a complete representation (except that of the rare 1/- Die 2).....	£22.50
1007	(a) <u>Middle Value Centre Plate Varieties.</u> Eight impressions in the first two vertical rows of centre plate 1A were re-entered after some printings had been made of all three values (9d, 1/- and 1/6) for which it was used, so stamps from these positions exist (a) normal and (b) showing signs of re-entry. We here offer a superb series of blocks of 16 (each comprised of the first two vertical rows of the sheet) showing both states in all three values. In addition, there are two further blocks of the 1/-, showing the R7/2 frame plate flaw and retouch, both of which occurred before the re-entering of the centre plate. Thus there are eight blocks of 16 in the set, being NCV1 (a) - (h) absolutely complete. A specialist set par excellence!	£22.50
	(b) <u>As above,</u> but this time a set of blocks showing the various states of R6/10 of centre plate 2B. In the 9d there is the normal (pre-flaw) state only; in the 1/- there are three states - normal, second flaw and second retouch; in the 1/6, two-second flaw and second retouch; and in the 1/9, four - normal, first flaw, first retouch and second retouch. By C. P. Catalogue numbers, these are NCV3(a), (d), (g), (h), (m), (n), (o), (p), (q) and (s). All are in mint blocks of six with plate numbers, except the 1/9's which are in plate blocks of eight, to show in addition the constant frame plate re-entry on R5/10. The set of ten variety blocks	£28.50
	N. B. Wants list for individual blocks showing particular states of any of the above will be welcomed.	
1008	(a) <u>1/- Double Print, One Albino.</u> Superb mint single, with the characteristic Blurred Centre. Supplied with normal for comparison	£ 5.00
	(b) <u>As above.</u> Superfine used single with Blurred Centre	£ 5.00
	(c) <u>As above.</u> A mint block of 4 with sheet value marking "£4" (from an issued half-sheet). All four stamps have Blurred Centres and as additional evidence of the albino print, there is a clear "pressure-line" in the top selvage, caused by the two sheets of paper being slightly out of perfect alignment when they passed through the printing press simultaneously. A superb variety block	£25.00
1009	(a) <u>1/6 Double Print, One Albino.</u> Mint single. Scarce (again with normal for comparison)	£ 8.00

- (b) Exhibition Piece. A remarkable counter coil strip of ten (NC7c), with numbered join between the bottom two stamps and "mid-coil" butted join between the top two. All nine stamps above the numbered join clearly show the Blurred Centre variety. A rare item, in glorious mint condition. The strip £100.00

- (c) 1/6 Counter Coil Pair (NC7c), lower stamp with Blurred Centre, and as in 1/- block above (lot 1008c), showing a clear pressure line in the selvage. Yet another titbit in a feast of super material! The variety coil pair £17.50
- 1010 1/6d Inverted Watermark. Mint single, scarce £ 7.50

Q. E. COUNTER COILS

Group 1 - "Small figures" designs, first type coil numbers.

- 1011 (a) 2d Myrtle Green (NC1a) complete set nos. 1-19 £ 3.00
- (b) 3d Vermilion. Die 1a, coil number reading up (NC1b) complete set nos. 1-19 £ 3.00
- (c) 3d Vermilion. Die 1a, coil number reading down (NC1c). Coil pairs, each 38p
- (d) 3d Vermilion. Die 1b, coil number reading down (NC1e). Coil pairs, each £ 1.50
- (e) 3d Vermilion. Combined dies 1a and 1b, coil number reading up (NC1f). Coil pairs, each £ 1.50
- (f) 3d Vermilion. Combined dies 1a and 1b, coil number reading down (NC1g). Coil pairs, each £ 1.50
- (g) 4d Ultramarine. (NC1h) complete set nos. 1-19, with wrapper and centre papers £ 4.50
- (h) 6d Purple. (NC1j), complete set nos. 1-19 £ 5.00
- (i) 8d Rose-Carmine. (NC1k) set nos. 1-19, with wrapper and centre papers £ 5.50

Group 2 - "Large figures" design, first type coil numbers.

- 1012 (a) 6d Mauve. (NC2a) complete set nos. 1-19 £ 8.50

Group 3 - "Small figures" designs, second type coil numbers.

- 1013 (a) 3d Vermilion. Die 1a, coil numbers reading up (NC3a). Complete set nos. 1-19 £ 3.50
- (b) 4d Ultramarine. (NC3d) complete set nos. 1-19 £ 6.50
- (c) 8d Rose-Carmine (NC3e) complete set nos. 1-19 £ 6.50

Group 4 - "Large figures" designs, second type coil numbers.

- 1014 (a) 2d Myrtle Green. (NC4a) complete set nos. 1-19, with wrapper and centre papers £ 5.50
- (b) 4d Ultramarine. (NC4c) complete set nos. 1-19, with wrapper and centre papers £ 6.75
- (c) 6d Mauve. (NC4d) complete set nos. 1-19 £ 7.00

Group 5 - Middle values, horizontal pairs - scarce!

- 1015 (a) 9d Brown and Green (NC5a) Complete set nos. 1-19. One pair (coil no. 19) includes one stamp with centre plate re-entry. The set £32.50
- (b) 1/- Black and Carmine. (NC5b) Complete set nos. 1-19 £40.00

- (c) 1/6 Black and Ultramarine. (NC5c) Complete set nos. 1-19, with wrapper and centre papers, both dated 11th August 1954 (very early date)..... £42.50

Group 6 - Middle values, vertical pairs, first type coil numbers.

- 1016 (a) 9d Brown and Green. (NC6a) Complete set nos. 1-19. Various minor centre plate re-entries are noted, and there are two extra pairs numbered 6 and 9, showing the later addition of full-stops after these numbers to prevent confusion. The set of 21 pairs £ 9.00
- (b) 1/- Black and Carmine. Numbers upright (NC6b) Complete set nos. 1-19. Again re-entries are noted, and the set includes wrapper and centre papers dated 20th April 1955 (another early date) £12.50
- (c) 1/- Black and Carmine. Numbers sideways (NC6c). Complete set, nos. 1-19 £20.00
- (d) 1/6d Black and Ultramarine. (NC6d) Complete set nos. 1-19. Four pairs include stamps with re-entries. The set £12.50

Group 7 - Middle values, vertical pairs, second type coil numbers.

- 1017 (a) 9d Brown and Green. (NC7a) complete set nos. 1-19 £ 6.75
- (b) 1/- Black and Carmine. (NC7b) with normal wide gutters. Complete set nos. 1-19 £ 7.50
- (c) As above, but with narrow gutters. The set of 19 pairs £ 7.50
- (d) As above, but with the scarcer trimmed gutters (as a point of interest, "trimmed" gutters are the narrowest of all). The set £23.50
- (e) 1/6d Black and Ultramarine. (NC7c) complete set nos. 1-19, five pairs include stamps with re-entries £ 9.50
- (f) 1/9d Black and Orange. (NC7d) complete set nos. 1-19 £32.50

Group 8 - Values on thick fine white paper (all of these are scarce).

- 1018 (a) 2d Myrtle Green. (NC8a) complete set nos. 1-19 with wrapper and centre papers dated 15th January 1960. The set £15.00
- (b) 3d Vermilion. (NC8b) complete set 1-19 with wrapper and centre papers (19th January 1960) £15.00
- (c) 8d Light Brown. (NC8d) complete set nos. 1-19 with wrapper and centre papers (1st April 1960) £37.50
- (d) 1/9d Black and Orange. (NC8e) complete set nos. 1-19 with wrapper and centre papers (29th September 1959) £35.00

SPECIAL
OFFER

One set only, comprising NC1a, b, c, h, j, & k, NC2a, NC3a, d, e, NC4a, c, d, NC5a, b, c, NC6a, b, c, d, NC7a, b, c, d, NC8a, b, d, e. all in complete sets numbered 1-19. Complete showing of all the basic listings, with the exception of the very scarce 4d on thick white paper. 532 coil pairs. Total cat. in excess of £440. Unrepeatable at £350

We can of course supply coil pairs of most of the above singly from stock. Wants lists for individual items welcomed.