

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



PUBLISHED BY CAMPBELL PATERSON LTD.

P. O. Box 17, Woking, Surrey.

ISSUED MONTHLY.

☎ WOKING 5887.

All lots offered on approval subject to being unsold.



VOLUME X

NUMBER 6

JANUARY 1973

N. Z. NOTES AND COMMENT
by Colin Hamilton

Although I have not been able to put a finger on the actual record, some mention was, I believe, made a few years ago to the existence of stamps purporting to be the Q. E. provisional 2d on 1½d "error", i.e. C. P. N41a, S. G. 763b, but having the surcharge forged.

I personally had seen genuine copies only, until recently, when not one, but three examples turned up in one collection which we acquired, each one having a form of surcharge which was obviously "wrong".

In point of fact, the overall dimensions of the forgery are for all practical purposes the same as the genuine, and the black "blob" which obliterates the original value measures very close to the 4½ mm. diameter of the normal. The giveaway, however, lies in the shape of the individual characters of the value. This has been printed in a different type-face from the genuine, both the '2' and the 'd' being much rounder than the normal. (See illustrations).



FORGERY

GENUINE

All three copies seen were used, and while this does not preclude the existence of unused, it seems to me more likely that the surcharge was added after the stamps had done postal duty as ordinary "small figure" 1½d's.

Although it is a crude copy of the genuine, and as such not likely to fool anyone with even a modicum of experience, this - like all forgeries - is highly dangerous to the unsuspecting, and to the ignorant. (As a matter of general interest, it is not an automatic reaction to consign such 'weeds' to the wastepaper basket. They are useful as reference copies, for instance, and in such cases our policy is to mark them indelibly for what they are, so that they cannot again be mistaken.)

Fortunately, New Zealand stamps of this century have received relatively little attention from practitioners of the dubious art of forgery, and the related (and equally dubious) skill of "stamp doctoring". Among the stamps issued in the last 70 years or so, the only malicious tampering which comes readily to mind, apart from the instance described above, is the illicit "Auckland Exhibition" overprint which has been mentioned previously in the columns of the Bulletin, and the forging of some rarer perforation varieties, notably among the 1d Universals.

The Full-Face Queen issues had their quota of forgeries (almost invariably very poor imitations), and of repairs (many of these - closed tears, grafted-on margins, complete or partial re-backing, drawn-in frame lines, forged perforations - being fiendishly cleverly done). Regrettably, too many of these "black sheep" still circulate today, with the defects going for the most part unnoticed. A revealing comment on the misdirected skills of the perpetrators, but even more so on the carelessness and ignorance which is abroad today.

It is the existence of these traits which opens up another large area of even greater danger to the average collector. Misidentification of stamps is disturbingly widespread at the present time, and

expert committees or collectors - is much less at fault than any other. From recent personal experience, I know of innumerable instances of wrongly identified stamps emanating from all of these sources.

Human nature being what it is, the overwhelming majority of cases are "geese identified as swans" and sooner or later, of course, the inevitable outcome is disillusionment and disappointment for someone. It may be of interest, and serve a useful purpose, to cite a few actual instances:

1. An ordinary mint copy of the common 1960 Pictorial 4d (C. P. 06a, S. G. 786) identified as the rare chalky paper variety (06b, 786a). Complete with a certificate from a very well known source.
2. 3d Huia of the First Pictorials with double perf 11 (a relatively common variety) identified as the rare variety mixed perfs. Again with a certificate from another, equally well known source.
3. 1d Universal Booklet Plate stamps (with perforations trimmed off) identified as imperf Trial Slot Machine issues. These turn up with monotonous regularity.
4. Common 1d Dominion "Lithographed Watermark" stamps identified as the rare "colourless watermark" variety. This is another all-too-frequent occurrence.

Occasionally - very occasionally - the misidentification may be the other way, and an astonishing example of this came to my notice just the other day. A collector friend showed me a copy of a 2d Full-Face Queen he had purchased as S. G. 38, that is to say a Davies Print (and here I quote from Stanley Gibbons' catalogue) "2d pale blue (worn)". He had paid about 80% of the catalogue price, and his primary concern was whether he had paid too much. In fact the stamp was a very nice fresh copy, with good to large margins, a neat clear cancellation, and no hidden defects, so the short answer to his doubt would have been no, 80% of catalogue would be a perfectly acceptable price, indeed at present day values a bargain. However, everything about the stamp - shade, fine full print completely without evidence of plate wear, blue "bleeding" out from the frame lines into the margins, blueing on the back - everything indicated that it was not S. G. 38 (nor 39, 37 or 36!), but S. G. 2, a London Print, and a remarkably fine copy too.

Not unnaturally, my friend was delighted, but to my mind how much more satisfying the tale would have been had he known whether or not he was making a good purchase at the time. I do not, however, tell this story against him. After all, he knows, and admits, that his knowledge of Chalon Heads is virtually nil. On the other hand, I am quite certain that he has learned something useful from this episode.

Which brings us to the main points I want to make. These are not new, but they are worth repeating over and over again.

1. Knowledge is a vital importance in philately.
2. While accumulating that knowledge, purchase from (or sell to) absolutely reliable sources only. I use the word 'reliable' advisedly. 'Reputable' is perhaps an adjective more frequently used in this connection, but it seems to me that in specialised fields, whether philately or any other, 'reliability' implies all the qualities required. 'Repute' does not necessarily do so.

COMMEMORATIVE COLLECTIONS

A veritable feast of offers, mainly of single-issue collections which are all-too-seldom available.

- 101 1920 Victory. A mint shade collection of 19 stamps, with $\frac{1}{2}$ d(3), 1d(4), $1\frac{1}{2}$ d(2), 2d on $\frac{1}{2}$ d(3), 3d(2), 6d(2) and 1/- (3). Condition varies from good to superb - all 19 are of first-class appearance. Fine representation of a scarce set £13.50
- 102 1d Map. Mint blocks of 4 on both the De La Rue and the scarcer Jones paper. Two blocks..... £ 1.40

- 103 1925 Dunedin Exhibition. Set in mint singles with, additionally, constant varieties on the $\frac{1}{2}$ d (block of 4, slight age stains on back), 1d (pair, also slight age marks on back only), and the well-known POSTAGE variety on R10/1 of the 4d, in pair with normal. Fine mint, except where otherwise indicated. 11 stamps..... £13.50
- 104 1936 ANZAC 21st Anniversary. The set in blocks of 4, plus plate blocks showing the plate number 1 in three different positions on the $\frac{1}{2}$ d, and in all four existing positions on the 1d. Nine blocks of 4, all mint..... £ 3.25
- 105(a) 1936 Chambers of Commerce. Set of six plate blocks of 4, being one each of plate 1 in all five values, and an additional block of the 1d with plate no. 2 (the 1d was the only value for which two plates were used, of course.). The six plate blocks, scarce as a set..... £ 4.25
- (b) As above. 1d value only - three blocks, showing plate no. 1 in two different positions, and plate no. 2 in one position 25p
- 106 1940 Centennial. Superb collection comprising the complete set of 14 values in mint singles, and no less than 99 (yes, 99!) different plate numbers, all in mint blocks of 4 except: (1) the rare 2d plate A8, of which only two or three examples are believed to exist, and present here in a plate no. pair, and (2) the 1/-, which is in a horizontal strip of 4. Plate numbers are in fact complete but for five (1d A1, J3; $1\frac{1}{2}$ d B2; 2d A7; 3d A1). In addition there are two extra blocks of the 9d plate B1 showing different states of the retouched '1'. In one of these there appears to have been retouching to the actual sheet, similar to the "Finger flaw" on the 1963 3d + 1d Health stamp. Finally there are two positional blocks with the R1/1 re-entry on both the $1\frac{1}{2}$ d and the 10d on $1\frac{1}{2}$ d surcharge. A magnificent opportunity for someone, at a mere fraction of Catalogue price. Unrepeatable £65.00
- 107(a) 1940 Centennial Officials. An even more comprehensive collection of plate numbers than the previous lot, this one being absolutely complete - all in blocks of 4 except the 1/- (in strip of 4). The 38 plate number pieces, mint. A real bargain at £16.50
- (b) As above. The well-known "Joined ff" variety on the $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 2d, $2\frac{1}{2}$ d, 3d, 4d, 6d, and 8d, each in mint pair with normal (except the $2\frac{1}{2}$ d, which is in strip of 3). This variety was the result not of a chance flaw, but of the unintentional inclusion in the forme of one of the stereotypes used for overprinting the Second Pictorial "officials". The complete variety set £18.00
- (c) As above. Other overprint varieties exist, perhaps less familiar, but equally conspicuous. One (on R8/12 of some values) shows as a clear break in the top of the 'c' of 'Official', with the following 'i' tapering to a point at the foot. Another (on R2/1) takes the form of a prominent break in the top of the first 'i' of 'Official'. We here offer examples of both of these varieties on the $\frac{1}{2}$ d, $1\frac{1}{2}$ d, 3d, 4d, 6d and 9d, each in marginal mint pair with normal. The 12 variety pairs, rarely seen £17.50
- The above four lots would together make a really outstanding specialised collection of this issue. To anyone ordering all four lots (i.e. 106 and 107a-c), we can offer the collection complete as described at the extra-special price of £100.00
- 108 1946 Peace. Magnificent collection of this philatelically fascinating issue, replete with varieties. Many re-entries are present, including some in large blocks of the beautiful 9d value. Other varieties include the rare "Blurred centre" on the 4d (this copy itself shows a re-entry!), and plate and imprint blocks are complete. 371 stamps, pleasingly mounted on 22 album leaves, all fully annotated. Our best advice is - hurry if you want this lot! £35.00
- 109 1955 Stamp Centennial. Plate/imprint blocks complete in all values. Of the 2d plate 1A1A there are two blocks (one of 4 stamps, one of 8), showing excellent shades of the sepia, and the larger block includes a minor plate flaw. A set of singles completes the lot of 53 stamps, all mint £ 3.50

- 110 1957 Lamb. An all-variety collection with, in the 4d, a single with wmk inverted and four plate varieties in blocks of 8, 4 and a pair; and in the 8d, four varieties in blocks of 6, 4 and a pair. All mint (27)..... £ 6.00
- 111 1958 Kingsford Smith. Plate/imprint blocks (plate nos 1 and 2), and sheet value marking, all of these in blocks of 4 stamps, with additional blocks of 9, 10 and a single, all including constant plate varieties. An interesting display of a popular stamp£ 4.00
- 112 1959 Marlborough Centennial. Another "varieties only" lot. The highlight is an outstanding block of 18 of the 3d (being the bottom three rows of a sheet complete with all selvages and plate no. 1 no dot), with an extra strike of the comb perforating head reaching fully six holes up into the gutters between the bottom row of stamps. According to Volume 4 of "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand", the doubling of perforations on this value affected only one, two or three holes. In addition there is a block showing lesser doubling of perfs, and there are constant plate varieties on the 2d(4), 3d(2) and 8d(1). The variety collection of 58 stamps, mint..... £11.50
- 113(a) 1959 Red Cross Major Rarity. A prominent flaw was noticed on R13/6 very soon after printing commenced. This flaw was promptly removed, and the plate retouched. At first the retouch was quite prominent (although finely executed), but as printing progressed, plate wear caused the evidence of retouching to become less definite. Examples of the three states are here offered, the rare flaw and the later state of the retouch being in positional blocks of 6, and the earlier state of the retouch in a block of four with selvedge. In addition, all three blocks show the constant touch-up on R13/5, and two the R11/6 "Retouch to Falkland Islands". A remarkable demonstration of true philatelic history £40.00
- (b) Red Cross Varieties. Five blocks (one of 8 stamps, two of 6 and two of 4) showing the constant varieties on R1/1, 7/5, 11/6, 13/5, 13/6 (retouch), 15/5 and 18/6 - all of these are listed and described in Volume 4. Also included is a block of 6 with left selvedge with an excellent example of "partial double perfs horizontally". The six blocks, mint £ 6.75
- 114 1962 Telegraph Centenary. A most unusual and fascinating lot. The 8d is straight forwardly but comprehensively represented by imprint, plate, sheet value and colour code blocks. Of the 3d, on the other hand, there are specialist items galore, including many plate varieties (all fully annotated), a block showing an interesting perf variety, a vertical strip of 7 (severed) showing a remarkable variation in the brown colour from deep chocolate to pale and back to deep again, and finally another vertical strip (of 4), two stamps having the brown colour partially omitted, giving two states of the spectacular "Ghostly hand" variety. The delightful, and highly desirable, collection of 67 stamps, all mint £35.00
- 115 1963 Railways Centenary 3d. Mint corner block of 4 with a stupendous misplacement of the perforations both vertically and horizontally (5mm too high and 5mm to the right). It is said that only half of one sheet was sold, and the remainder withdrawn. The striking block £ 7.50
- 116 1965 ANZAC 50th Anniversary. Yet another superb collection, full of exciting and seldom-seen varieties. To mention but two - a plate block of 20 of the 4d with spectacular double perfs affecting the bottom row (the block also includes the constant varieties on R6/2 and R9/4); secondly a magnificent block of 12 (6 x 2) of the 5d, all six stamps in the upper row showing "Red colour partly omitted". In all there are 114 stamps, all mint £55.00
- 117 1965 I. C. Y. Shades in blocks of 4, single with wmk inverted (scarce), imprint block, and the R4/1 "Knot" flaw in positional block of 8. Also a complete sheet of 120, broken into quarters for convenient mounting - this sheet contains neither the R4/1 flaw nor the one on R7/6, which fact does not tally with the late John Robinson's findings at the time this stamp was current. The collection..... £ 7.50

- 118 1965 Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference. All the good ones are present in this lot - the 2/- plate block (in fact plate blocks are complete for all values), the R10/10 Harbour retouch in pair with normal, the 9d R11/6 flaw in block of 4, and a single showing the "Missing flagstaffs". 23 stamps, mint £18.50
- 119 1967 P. O. S. B. Plate numbers complete, imprint blocks, shades and four plate varieties are included in this fine lot of 58 stamps, all mint £3.00
- 120 1967 Royal Society. A very fine lot of varieties, among them the 4c R7/10 flaw in two states, in positional blocks of 4 (these form an outstanding pair of blocks). Also imprint blocks, and plate numbers are complete, including a strip of three of the 4c with the very rare "Five number" plate 1A1A1A1A2A (black plate numbers 1A and 2A both appear in this combination). A total of 90 stamps, mint. £37.50
- 121(a) 1968 Maori Bible 3c. Mint singles (2), one, with selvedge, having the scarce variety watermark inverted. Also included are a complete set of three imprint/plate blocks of 6, and a positional block of 10 with the constant "loop on N of LAND" variety. The all-mint collection. £8.25
- (b) As above. An imprint/plate block of 6 (plate 2A x 5) with watermark inverted. A rare block, being one of only three such plate blocks recorded. Immaculate mint. £55.00
- 122 1968 Armed Services. The complete set of three values in singles and plate/imprint blocks of 6. In addition there are corner blocks of 4 of the 4c and 28c with watermark inverted. 29 stamps, all mint. £12.50
- 123 1968 Suffrage 3c / I. H. R. 10c / 1969 I. L. O. 7c. Three issues in one collection, each represented by singles and imprint/plate blocks. 25 mint. .. £ 1.35
- 124 1969 Law Society. A superb, comprehensive lot, including no less than six striking shades of the 3c, and three of the 18c, all in blocks of 4, plus an attractive variety block of 6 of the 10c. Representation of plate/imprint blocks is absolutely complete, including the rare 18c plate nos 1221 and 1a, 2a, 2a, 1a. Neatly mounted on 8 album leaves (the plate blocks are all housed in Hawid strips) 126 stamps, mint £40.00
- 125 1969 Otago University Centenary. Imprint/plate blocks complete (4), shade pairs of both the 3c and 10c, and a 3c sheet value block which includes the nice "Extra chimney" variety on R2/9. The collection of 38 mint. £2.50
- 126 1969 Bay of Islands. Plate/Imprint blocks of both values, and the catalogued flaw on R4/3 of the 4c in block of 8. The three blocks, mint. £ 3.25
- 127 1969 Capt. Cook Bicentenary. Another magnificently thorough lot. Imprint/Plate blocks are complete, as are all the catalogued plate varieties, in blocks as listed. Striking examples of "widely misplaced embossing" are present in blocks of 4 of the 6c and 18c, and there are additional variety blocks of the 6c (1) and the 28c (3). Finally there are four distinct types of the miniature sheet, one of which has the "Tarapex" cachet. All mounted in Hawid strips on 8 album leaves, and full annotated. 74 stamps and 4 miniature sheets £25.00
- 128 1969 CORSO/1970 Cardigan Bay. Mint singles and imprint/plate blocks (of 8 stamps in each of the CORSO values, and of 10 in the Cardigan Bay). 29 stamps. £ 3.50
- 129 1970 Expo. As in all the Japanese-printed issues of N. Z., varieties are notable by their absence, so this collection of singles, sheet value blocks and plate/imprint blocks represents completion £ 2.80
- 130 1970 U. N. 25th Anniversary. Three large positional blocks showing constant varieties on the 3c are the feature here. Also included are Imprint/plate blocks complete (two different in each value). The collection of 5 blocks, mint. £ 2.50

- 131 1970 Chatham Islands. Mint singles, sheet value blocks and plate/imprint blocks. 18 stamps 35p
- 132 1971 Commemoratives. A thorough-going collection of the whole year's commemorative issues, comprising CWI/Rotary sheet value blocks and plate/imprint blocks; One Ton Cup imprint/plate blocks complete, also the 5c R7/6 "Torn Sail" variety in positional block of 10; City Centenaries and Antarctic Treaty/UNICEF sets complete in imprint/plate blocks; Satellite Earth Station set of four blocks showing sheet values and imprint/plate numbers; similar coverage of the beautiful Rose Convention set; and finally the Lord Rutherford issue with imprint/plate number blocks complete, and an additional block of the 3c showing the constant R3/3 variety. The most impressive collection of 166 stamps all in mint blocks of 4 or more stamps. All this for..... £8.00
- 133 1972 Vintage Cars. All six values of the colourful, and extremely attractive "Old Cocks" set, each represented by two different imprint/plate blocks of 8, with additional interesting variety blocks of the 3c, 4c, 5c, 8c, and 10c. No less than 139 stamps mint £ 9.00

RARITIES ANCIENT AND MODERN

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| <p>134 <u>First Pictorial 3d Huia's "Official".</u> Very fine used copy of the excessively rare mixed perfs variety (originally perf 14 all round, re-perfed 11 at top). This is one of the only two copies known to exist, and has the Greymouth squared circle cancellation dated 27th April, 1908. (The other known copy also has the Greymouth postmark, identically dated, and is almost certainly from the same sheet). The great rarity, in unusually fine used condition for stamps of this period.... £37.50</p> | <p>135 <u>1960 Pictorial 4d Puarangi.</u> An astonishing block of 9 from the top right corner of a sheet (with sheet value marking). The top two rows (6 stamps) have the plum colour completely omitted, while the bottom row shows "plum partly omitted" - the point at which the pressure has lifted shows very clearly. The block is commercially used, still on original piece. We feel quite confident in stating that this is an absolutely unique item. An exhibition piece £125.00</p> |
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FULL-FACE QUEEN MULTIPLES

- 136 2d Richardson White Paper. A very fine strip of 3 in deep ultramarine (S. G. 8a). Stamps in this shade are rare in any form. In multiples they are extremely rare. In multiples of this quality - well! Good even margins all round, fresh colour, neatly cancelled by two strikes of '10' in barred oval. The shade is unconditionally guaranteed, of course. The rare strip of 3 £200.00
- 137 2d Davies Print (S. G. 36). Lovely block of 4 in full blue shade, tied to large piece of original cover by one of two strikes of '11' in barred oval. In addition there is a fine clear strike of the unframed Wellington c. d. s. dated OC 11 1862 (well clear of stamps). One stamp in the block is cut into at foot, and another has a corner minutely cut off, otherwise margins vary from close to large. A beautiful and rare piece £90.00
- 138 6d Davies Print. Superb fresh pair in black-brown (S. G. 41). Cut close but clear at right, otherwise good to huge margins. Brilliant clarity of print. A pair to enhance any collection £30.00