

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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THE PERFORATIONS OF THE Q. E. MIDDLE VALUES

All of these values (the 9d, 1/-, 1/6 and 1/9) have single comb perforations gauging 14, but behind this bare and rather mundane fact there lie a number of interesting details, evidence of all of which is readily visible in the issued material.

Complete sheets in each case were of 160 stamps, arranged in two panes of 80 (10x8) side by side, with a vertical gutter the width of one stamp between the panes. Normally comb perforating of a sheet of this format would be effected by means of one head, the gutter being for all practical purposes simply a row of "blank stamps", and therefore not requiring any abnormal arrangement of the pins or special stepping of the machine. In a sheet perforated thus, of course, the horizontal perforations would continue across the central gutter.

In the case of the Middle Values, however, two quite separate comb heads were set up side by side, with a space between them corresponding to the central gutter. Sheets of stamps were fed through this "twin comb" machine vertically, so that while a whole sheet was perforated in one operation, each pane was perforated by a separate head, and the central gutter was not perforated through.

On the heads used, the short rows of pins (that is, the sections which cut the vertical perforations on sheets run through vertically) normally consisted of 19 pins, but in this form they were slightly too deep. To keep the perforations well-registered throughout the sheet, therefore, the stepping of the machine had to be set in such a way that there was a slight overlapping of consecutive strikes. As a result, the top hole at each side of the issued stamps almost invariably cut into a hole in the horizontal row of holes above. At first glance, this produces an effect similar to that of line perforations.

Presumably in order to rectify this irregularity, an experiment was tried in which the topmost pin in each short row was removed, and the heads were used for a time in this "shortened" form. This left a wide "tooth" at each of the top corners of the stamps. A very similar, and better-known, peculiarity occurs on the original printings of the 1967 Pictorial 7½c Trout, i. e. those with sideways watermark.

The experiment was apparently not considered satisfactory, because the pins were subsequently re-instated. The writer has seen only 9d stamps with the "missing pin" variety.

As has already been stated, sheets were invariably fed through the perforating head vertically. In fact the direction of feed was almost always from bottom to top. All such sheets had the bottom selvage without vertical perforations, while the top selvage was "perforated through". Exceptionally, however, some sheets were run through the machine from top to bottom, and on these sheets the described pattern was reversed. Again this variety (which is relatively scarce) appears to be confined to the 9d, and all examples seen had been perforated by the heads in their "all pins present" form. It is worth

mentioning that it is not essential to find stamps with top or bottom selvedge attached in order to show the abnormal top-to-bottom perforating. Because of the overlapping-holes peculiarity already discussed, identification is possible even in single stamps. In the abnormalities, the overlapping holes would obviously be at the bottom corners.

In the vast majority of the issued sheets (of all values), the side selvedges, like the central gutter, were not perforated through. But here too there was an exception; some sheets had extra horizontal perforations running through the right-hand selvedge, indicating that at least three individual heads were in use (in combinations of two). Volume 4 of "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand" states, on page 504: "These sheets" - (i. e. those with extra perfs in the right-hand selvedge) - "had 19 pins in the short rows". Evidently this statement as it stands is inaccurate, since illustration (d) on Permanent Page N6 of the C. P. Catalogue shows a photograph of an example which was clearly from the experimental state of the head, that is with 18 pins in the short rows.

The variations known to exist suggest several other possibilities, and some of these are listed below in question form. Can anyone supply positive answers to any of these?

1. Were the "18 - pin" heads ever used on the 1/-, 1/6 or 1/9 values?
2. Were the "18 - pin" heads ever used to perforate sheets top-to-bottom?
3. Were sheets of the 1/-, 1/6 or 1/9 ever perforated from top to bottom (using the 19 - pin heads)?

Single stamps could provide the necessary evidence to answer any of the above, though in each case a block would be preferable.

4. Does the "perfs through right selvedge" variety exist in the 19 - pin state on 9d, as suggested in Vol. 4?
5. Does the same variety exist in either 18 - pin or 19 - pin state on the 1/-, 1/6 or 1/9?
6. And does it exist on sheets of any value perforated top-to-bottom?

Obviously stamps with an appropriate portion of selvedge would be necessary to answer questions 4-6 satisfactorily.

..... AND UNTOUCHED BY HUMAN HANDS?

Recently received - a postal inquiry for a set of Smiling Boys unmounted used.
(For anyone else who may be interested, we can supply, no premium asked!)

STAMPEX 1973

It is particularly pleasing to report that entries of New Zealand material figured prominently in the list of awards at the 20th anniversary of Stampex (Feb. 26th - Mar. 3rd). So prominently, in fact, that N. Z. exhibits gained more successes than those of any other country except G. B.

The N. Z. winners were (in alphabetical order):

Messrs F. Chadwick, F. G. Fifoot, E. K. Hossell, F. Hughes, A. B. Johnstone (three winning entries), C. Longworth - Dames, J. Murr (two winning entries), J. A. W. Smith and R. M. J. Smith (the last two being a notable father-and-son double success!)

We offer hearty congratulations to all.

Collectors of moderns should be encouraged by the fact that all but two of the successful N. Z. exhibits consisted entirely of material issued since 1929.

401

THE 1906 CHRISTCHURCH EXHIBITION "PENNY CLARET"

We are privileged to offer an exceptionally fine example of this, one of the great stamps of the world. Previous hingeing in no way detracts from the otherwise "mint" condition of this copy. The records state that one sheet only (of 60 copies) was issued. Seldom available, and thoroughly recommended to the serious collector as one of the best copies we have seen..... £510.00

402

RARE FIRST SIDEFACES

Brilliant set of six corner blocks of 4, as follows:

- 1d perf 12 x 11½, with plate no. 1 in selvedge;
- 2d perf 12 x 11½, with plate no. 4 in selvedge;
- 3d perf 12½, with selvedge marking 1 in coloured circle (a printer's serial number common to all values);
- 4d perf 12 x 11½, with plate no. 5 in selvedge;
- 6d perf 12 x 11½, with plate no. 3 in selvedge;
- 1/- perf 12 x 11½, with plate no. 6 in selvedge.

Since only one plate was used for each value (and since the later-issued 2/- and 5/- were without selvedge markings) this represents a complete showing of N. Z.'s first plate numbers excepting the 3d plate 2. A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, the six mint blocks of 4..... £300.00

403

Victoria Land ½d Green. Superfine copy tied to small piece by a clear and complete strike of the "British Antarctic Expedition N. Z." handstamp dated JAN 18, 1913..... £ 66.00

404

King Edward VII Land 1d Carmine. Mint copy (rare thus) of the Royle printing (C.P. RD 1a, S.G. A1). Just the faintest trace of previous hingeing, but superb and fresh..... £ 55.00

SCARCE FIRST PICTORIALS/PENNY UNIVERSALS

405

1/- Kea & Kaka. Mint block of 4 of the London Print (E18a). Well-centred and beautifully fresh..... £ 8.80

406

2d Purple. Mint block of 4 with bottom selvedge, clearly showing two rows of mixed perfs (11 and 14) horizontally. The scarce block..... £ 27.50

407

As above. Mint horizontal pair with right selvedge. All perforations gauge 14 except the vertical row between the right-hand stamp and the selvedge, which gauges 11. This stamp is therefore a true irregular compound perf, a variety not recorded in the Handbooks. An item for the specialist..... £ 19.25

408

1d Universal. "Pirie" paper, perf 14 x 11 (G2c). Used single. Elusive, and missing from most collections..... £ 8.80

409(a)

As above. Original "Local" Plate printings on single-lined N. Z. and Star watermarked paper, perf 14 x 11 (G5d). Mint single..... £ 9.90

(b)

As above. Block of 4, with selvedge and arrow marking..... £ 39.60

410

As above. One of the great rarities among the Penny Universals, being a corner block of 4 of Reserve Plate stamps with mixed perfs (G6d). Minor reinforcement of perfs, but a block of wonderfully fresh appearance. Exhibition item £203.50

We have available at present one of the finest all-round collections of the K. G. VI Heads to come on the market for a considerable time. Running to four large and well-filled volumes, it covers in depth all values from the ½d to the 3/-, including the provisionals. Some idea of the scope of the collection can be gauged from the following brief description:

Plate numbers. Close to completion per the C. P. Catalogue, excepting a few of the "impossible" ones. Many are represented by more than one example, where differences of shade, paper or plate number position are significant, for instance.

Varieties. Present in great profusion, including a wonderful array of shades, inverted and defective watermarks, papers and plate varieties. Among many outstanding individual items are a fine example of the 2d on 1½d "Re-inserted 2" (R10/12) in a beautiful used positional block of 4, and a mint pair of the rare 1/- "double print of centre, one albino" (no need to reach for the glass to spot this one - the distinctive copper-brown shade is unmistakable).

Counter Coil pairs. Strength here, too, in both rubber-stamped and machine-printed numbers, including some complete sets numbered 1 - 19, and many variety pairs.

Annotation throughout (by one of the leading specialists in the issue) is detailed, and an education in itself, providing much information not recorded elsewhere. Condition is generally very high, the few items of less than top quality being fully allowed for in pricing. Well in excess of 5000 stamps, of which less than a dozen are used. An unrepeatable opportunity at an unrepeatable price..... £550.00

- 412 King Edward VII "Heads". A most unusual lot of 22 used pairs, comprising ½d (4 pairs), 2d(2), 3d(3), 4d yellow (2), 4d orange, 5d (3), 6d(2), 8d(3) and 1/- (2), all differing in either shade or perf. The 22 used pairs..... £ 11.00
- 413 1d Dominion. The "lithographed wmk" issue (J5a). Mint single on paper with horizontal mesh. Not the colourless wmk variety, but a scarce stamp nonetheless £ 2.75
- 414 K. G. V Recess Print Proofs. Imperf plate proofs, printed in black, of the 2½d, 3d, 4d, 4½d, 5d, 6d, 9d and 1/- . The 8 proof singles £ 8.25
- 415(a) Q. E. 9d. Two mint blocks of 4, one perforated by the "19-pin" head, the other by the "18-pin" head. (See this month's Bulletin note). The two blocks..... £ 1.32
- (b) As above. Two plate blocks from plate 1A1A, and two from 1B1B, each pair of blocks showing examples of "bottom-to-top" and "top-to-bottom" perforating with the "19-pin" heads (again see this month's note for details). The set of four plate blocks, mint..... £ 3.85
- 416 Q. E. Counter Coil Pairs. During the currency of the first-type vertical pairs of the Middle Values (NC6a-d), full-stops were added after the coil numbers 6 and 9 to facilitate identification of these numbers. Our offer is of two pairs of the 9d, and two of the 1/6, each showing the coil no. 6 without and with stop. The four pairs..... £ 3.30
- 417 1960 Pictorial 1/9 Brown. The good R6/16 retouch in mint block of 4 with selvage. A scarce item..... £ 5.50
- 418 1960 Pictorial 1/9 Multicolour. Mint pair with a really spectacular shift of the red colour, resulting in a "ghostly glider" performing the crop spraying, while a red plane straddles the perforations between the stamps. One of the best of all colour-shifts. See it and believe it! The mint variety pair..... £ 33.00

419	1960 Pictorial 5/-, Mint block of 4 (original paper) in which there is a striking downwards misplacement of the perforations, the horizontal rows of holes cutting through the 5 of the value.	£ 2.75
420	1960 Pictorial 10/-, The two outstanding varieties on this value are on R9/1 and R16/4 (both illustrated in the C. P. Catalogue). Here we offer both, on the chalky paper issue, each in mint pair with normal. The two pairs.	£ 9.90
421(a)	1960 Pictorial Booklet Panes. Two "stapled" panes each of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d and 3d, one pane of each value having the variety Chambon perfs. Six booklet panes of 6.	£ 1.32
(b)	As above. An excellent lot of 15 panes, each of the three values being represented by "stapled", "stitched" and "stitched with numeral" panes, plus a set of six 1d panes showing all the numerals 1 - 6. The 15 panes.	£ 2.75
422	First Type Postage Dues. A fine "run-through" of this ever-popular set, being complete except for the two 2d's, which are, strangely enough, by no means the scarcest. As a bonus, the 8d shows an excellent "Double strike" of the frame. 12 stamps, mint.	£ 12.10
423	Pigeon Post Flimsies. Two complete unused flimsies of the type issued by the Great Barrier Pigeongram Agency in 1903. One is inscribed "Auckland, N. Z.", the other "Whangaparapara, G. B.". Each has a 6d blue triangular attached, and both are in superbly fresh order. The pair of flimsies.	£ 33.00

PLATE BLOCKS - COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES

An extensive listing of plate and imprint blocks, the ideal opportunity to fill some of those gaps in your collection. The number of stamps in each block is indicated in brackets.

424(a)	1936 ANZAC $\frac{1}{2}$ d Plate 1 (4)	44p
(b)	Do. 1d Plate 1 (4)	44p
425(a)	1936 Chambers of Commerce $\frac{1}{2}$ d Plate 1 (4)	15p
	Do. 1d Plate 1 or 2 (4) Each block.	15p
426	1937 Coronation. 1d Plate 4L, 4T or Imprint (4) Each block	15p
427(a)	1940 Centennial 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d Imp. /Plate A1 (4)	26p
(b)	Do. 6d Imp. /Plate A1 (4)	£ 1.03
(c)	Do. 7d Imp. /Plate A1 (4)	£ 1.65
(d)	Do. 1/- Imp. /Plate A1 (strip of 4)	£ 6.00
428(a)	1946 Peace 1d Plate 2 (4)	11p
(b)	Do. 2d Plate 1, 2 or 6 (4). Each block	11p
(c)	Do. 3d Imprint (4)	15p
(d)	Do. 8d Imprint (6)	53p
429	1948 Otago Centennial 3d Imp. /Plate 2 (4)	15p
430(a)	1950 Canterbury Cent. 1d Imp. /Plate A1 (4)	7p
(b)	Do. 2d Imp. /Plate A1 (4)	11p
(c)	Do. 3d Imp. /Plate A1 (4)	17p
(d)	Do. 6d Imp. /Plate A1 (4)	33p
431(a)	1953 Coronation 2d Plate 1A, 1B or Imprint (4). Each block.	11p
(b)	Do. 4d 1A, 1B or Imprint (4). Each block	42p
432	1953 Royal Visit 4d Imp. /Plate 45985 (4)	37p
433(a)	1955 Stamp Centennial 2d Plate 1A1A (4).	28p
(b)	Do. 4d Plate 1A1A or 1B1B (4) Each block.	83p

434(a)	1956 Southland 3d Plate 1A, 1B or Imprint (4). Each block	17p
(b)	Do. 8d Plate 1 - 1 (4)	£ 1.38
435(a)	1958 Hawkes Bay 2d Plate 8 (6)	33p
(b)	Do. 8d Plate 6 (6)	£ 2.75
436	1960 Westland 8d Plate 3 or Imprint (6). Each block	£ 2.20
437	1962 Telegraph 8d Plate 1A1A (4)	£ 1.38
438	1963 Railways 3d Plate 2111 (6)	42p
439(a)	1965 ANZAC 4d Imp. /Plate 1A (6)	44p
(b)	Do. 5d Imp. /Plate 1A1A (6)	£ 1.10
440	1965 I. T. U. 9d Imp. /Plate 1A1A (6)	96p
441	1965 Wellington Govt. 4d Imp. /Plate 1A1A1A1A (8)	26p
442	1965 I. C. Y. 4d Imprint (4)	26p
443(a)	Parl. Conf. 4d Plate 1A1A1A1A (4)	55p
(b)	Do. 9d Plate 1A1A1A1A (4)	83p
(c)	Do. 2/- Plate 1A1A1A1A(4). Slight gum disturbance, but scarce	£ 5.50
444	1966 Scout 4d Plate 1A1A(4) or Imprint (6) Each block	26p
445	1967 P. O. S. B. 4d Plate 1A1A1A or Imprint (6) Each block	26p
446	1968 Bible 3c Imp. /Plates 1A1A1A1A, 1B1B1B1B and 2A2A2A2A. Complete set of three blocks of 6	60p
447	1968 Armed Services 4c, 10c, 28c. Complete set of three Imp. /Plate blocks of 6	£ 4.18
448	1968 Suffrage 3c Imp. /Plate T201 (8)	28p
449	1968 Human Rights 10c Imp. /Plate T202 (8)	£ 1.38
450	1969 I. L. O. 7c Imp. /Plate 1A1A (6)	77p
451(a)	1969 Law Society 3c, 10c, 18c. Complete set of 14 Imp. /Plate blocks of 6, including the rare 18c Plates 1221 and 1a2a2a1a	£ 35.75
(b)	As above, but set of 12 blocks, excluding the two rarities	£ 15.85
452	1969 Otago Univ 3c Imp. /Plate 1a1a1a1a (6)	33p
453	1969 Capt. Cook 4c, 6c, 18c, 28c. Complete set of 4 Imp. /Plate blocks of 6	£ 5.35
454	1969 Bay of Islands 4c, 6c. Set of 2 Imp. /Plate blocks of 6, complete	£ 2.60
455	1969 C. O. R. S. O. Plate blocks of the 7c (8 stamps) and 8c (4 stamps). Two blocks complete	£ 2.20

Plate blocks of most later sets are available either individually or in complete sets. Wants lists welcomed.

456	Christmas Postcard. Full-colour reproduction of the painting featured on the 1972 Christmas 3c stamp. Good write - up material for your Christmas collection. The coloured card	13p
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VALUE ADDED TAX

U. K. readers will know that V. A. T. came into operation on 1st April, 1973. We are obliged by the law to collect this tax on goods which are liable, and accordingly all of our current and future advertised prices may be taken as being tax-inclusive.

When ordering from the C. P. Catalogue, however, U. K. clients should add 10% to remittances to allow for V. A. T.