

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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NEW ZEALAND NOTES & COMMENT

by Colin Hamilton

Penny Dominion Bisect? We were recently shown, and asked for an opinion on, a registered cover bearing the left half of a vertically bisected 1d Dominion and a 3d Edward. The stamps were tied to the cover by the Chatham Islands datestamp of 28th December, 1911, and there were also strikes of a Christchurch datestamp of 2nd January, 1912 and a British receiving mark of 11th February, 1912. The point in question was, of course, whether this was a genuine, authorised usage of a bisected 1d stamp.

At first sight, it is just conceivable, I suppose, that the postmaster at Waitangi on Chatham Island had run short of $\frac{1}{2}$ d stamps and, remembering his illustrious fellow postmaster at Dunedin many years before, Captain Elles (it was he who utilised bisected 1/- Full-Face Queens as 6d's for a brief period in the late 1850's) chose to overcome his shortage by this means. But the rules of the post office were much more precise in 1911 than they had been prior to 1860, and such action then would have been against the regulations.

Far more likely - indeed almost certainly - this cover was "concocted" by favour. It had that certain "philatelic" look, with the neatly applied stamps (or rather stamp-and-a-half!), the perfect strike of the datestamp, carefully positioned, the English addressee's name and address applied with a rubber stamp. But the real giveaway is the apparent rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. At that time (1911-12) the registration fee was 3d, and the ordinary letter rate 1d, making a minimum combined rate of 4d.

Strictly speaking, no New Zealand stamp has ever been officially authorised for use bisected, and while others (like that described above) may exist, the Dunedin 1/- bisects are the only ones generally accepted as legitimate.

M

Cash on the Mail! Another item seen lately was a cover on which postage had been prepaid not by means of a stamp, but by a coin affixed to the envelope with transparent adhesive tape. I understand that emergency measures of this kind were not (and possibly still are not) so very uncommon where a post office - usually in an isolated village, either on the mainland, or on an offshore island - had temporarily run short of stamps. Coins attached to any such items would normally be replaced with stamps at the nearest transit office.

In this case the cover, from St. Helier's to Wanganui, had passed through the mails exactly as posted, the coin being "cancelled" by a slogan postmark. The actual datestamp had missed the envelope, and the slogan appeared to be in three lines, the second line ending in ALLY, and the third in CHILD. No such slogan is listed in either Volume 3, or Volume 4 of the Handbook, suggesting that the date was probably in the 1960's (after Vol. 4 had gone to press). Without identification of the slogan, the only definite evidence of date is that it was not prior to 1953 (the date on the Q.E. 3d piece).

Another point of interest was the sender's address (written on the back of the envelope) in St. Helier's. This is a suburb of Auckland, scarcely a stone's throw from the Chief Post Office there and hardly, therefore, an office likely to run short of stamps.

My guess is that the sender probably went along to post the letter on a Sunday, or in the evening when the post office had closed, and discovered that the stamp slot machine was empty. No doubt the letter was of some urgency, and the sender therefore attached payment for the postage, trusting that the post office would "do the necessary." This they apparently did, but not quite in the manner expected.

801

1946 PEACE - A MATCHLESS COLLECTION

We are honoured to offer for sale intact the Arthur Dexter "Peace", one of the finest existing collections of this absorbing issue. All values are represented in depth, with particular emphasis - naturally - on the recess-printed stamps. The studies of the 5d and 9d are outstanding, but then so are those of the 3d, 4d, 6d and 8d! And the $\frac{1}{2}$ d? We have never before seen such a wealth of material in this value as is present here. Throughout, plate numbers and imprints are complete, and rarities - catalogued and uncatalogued - abound. For instance there is an upper left corner block of 12 of the 3d without the "retouch to tail-plane" on either R2/4 or R3/2, an exceptional early-state rarity. And in the 5d blocks showing the variety "top row with centre offset on reverse" are included from each of the only two sheets known. The writing-up matches the material; points of interest are delightfully hand-illustrated throughout.

The unique assemblage of over 1200 Peace stamps, all but 17 being mint... £227.50

K. G. V. RECESS IN COMPLETE SHEETS.

Material such as this is rarely available. All offers are of sheets of 120 (10 horizontal rows of 12), complete with all selvages.

- 802 1½d Grey. The provisional issue on "Pictorial" paper. This sheet has the plate number 14 in its rare complete form (in the vast majority of cases the number was partly or wholly guillotined off). Two complete vertical rows are the "no watermark" variety, and the sheet contains 12 two-perf vertical pairs (two being without wmk., of course). A few very minor age spots, but otherwise very fine. The sheet..... £ 47.50
- 803 2½d Deep Blue. From the early printings with brownish gum, and perf 14 x 13¼ throughout the sheet. Condition quite superb. The sheet (with plate no. 17)..... £ 38.50
- 804 4d Yellow. Sheets of the 4d yellow (being necessarily from Plate 20) always include the two big "wrong value" re-entries on R1/6 and R4/10: The sheet offered is in the two-perf form, and condition is exceptional, a small tear in the bottom selvage (well clear of any stamp) being of no consequence. The plate 20 "Yellow" sheet, of great philatelic interest..... £ 47.50

OTHER K. G. V. OFFERS.

- 805(a) Recess Prints. A delightful run-through of the perf 14 x 13¼ issues, with

- shades. When one sees a lot like this, it's easy to understand the fascination the 'Georges' hold for their devotees. They are lovely stamps. This set comprises 1½d (both papers), 2d violet (2), 2d yellow, 2½d (2), 3d, 4d yellow (2), 4d deep purple (scarce), 4½d (2), 5d (3), 6d (3), 7½d, 8d blue, 8d red brown (2), 9d (2), 1/- (2). 27 stamps, glorious colours, mint..... £ 18.00
- 805(b) As above. A similar set in perf 14 x 14¼, including 1½d (both papers), 2d violet (2), 2d yellow, 2½d, 3d (1), 4d yellow (2), 4d purple (2), 4½d, 5d (2), 6d (2), 8d blue (2), 9d, 1/- (3, incl. salmon). 23 mint..... £ 14.50
- 806 Two-Perf Pairs. A short set of these eagerly-sought-after variety pairs, including 1½d, 2d violet, 2d yellow, 3d, 4d yellow, 4½d and 8d. The 7 two-perf pairs, very fine mint..... £ 15.00
- 807 "Pictorial" Paper Issues. 1½d perf 14 x 13¼, 1½d perf 14 x 14¼, 2d, 3d, 6d and 3d "Official", all represented by two examples, one with wmk, and one no wmk. The 2d and 3d are in singles, the others are all wmk/no wmk joined pairs. Superb coverage! 12 stamps, mint..... £ 13.00
- 808 Surface Prints. A fine mint lot of 28, including ½d (7), ½d War Stamp, 1d Field Marshal (4, including the rare K15c), 1½d black (2), 1½d orange brown (3), 2d (8), 3d (3). Needs but 2 stamps (K17e, K19d) to complete on a one-of-each-per-C.P. Catalogue basis. 28 mint, all identified..... £ 25.00
- 809 Booklet Pane. 1d Field Marshal in a pane of 6, perf 14. This pane is without advertisements, having coloured bars in the selvages. Some staining affects the backs of two stamps, but does not detract from the very fresh appearance. The pane..... £ 3.00
- 810(a) Admirals. The Cowan paper 2/- and 3/-, each represented by the two catalogued shades. These high-value stamps have for long been under-catalogued, and have now begun to climb to something more like their true worth. The four Admirals, three previously hinged, but beautifully fresh mint..... £ 27.50
- (b) As above. Singles on Jones paper. The 2/- (with wmk inverted) has a tiny thin spot on the back, but is of excellent appearance; the 3/- is superb. The two mint..... £ 12.00

Q. E. COUNTER COIL PAIRS - COMPLETE SETS.

- 811(a) 9d Brown/Green. Vertical pairs numbered 1-19, with the earlier type of coil numbers upright. In addition there are two extra pairs no. 6 and 9 with the full-stops which were added during the currency of this issue to avoid possible confusion of these numbers. The set of 21 coil pairs (NC6a)..... £ 10.00
- (b) As above. Another set of 19 pairs, this time with the later type of coil numbers inverted. In this issue the 6's and 9's always had full stops. The set (NC7a)... £ 7.00
- 812(a) 1/- Black/Carmine. Set 1-19, vertical pairs with earlier type of coil numbers sideways reading upwards. The set (NC6c), cat. \$47.50)..... £ 13.75
- (b) As above. Set 1-19, with later type of coil numbers inverted, with normal (i.e. wide) gutters (NC7b)..... £ 10.00
- (c) As above. Another set of 19 pairs, this time with narrow gutters. These were made up from sheets with "security-width" selvages. The set (NC7b variation) £ 10.00
- (d) As above. Set with trimmed gutters. In this case, the reduced width of the gutters resulted when sheets with coil numbers already printed on normal wide selvages had these numbers trimmed off, and a fresh set of numbers added before coiling. The set of 19 coil pairs (NC7b variety)..... £ 20.00

N. B. Of the three listed gutters "normal" is the widest and occurs on the 9d, 1/- and 1/6; "narrow" is of medium width and occurs in the 1/-, 1/6 and 1/9; and "trimmed" is the narrowest of all, occurring only in the 1/- value.

- 813(a) 1/6 Black/Ultramarine. Set 1-19, vertical pairs with earlier type of coil numbers upright. (NC6d)..... £ 12. 50
- (b) As above. Set 1-19, later type of coil numbers inverted, with narrow gutters (NC7c variation)..... £ 11. 50

INTERESTING VARIETY LOTS, MINT AND USED

All lots in this section are supplied fully identified and described.

- 814(a) Second Pictorials. A most attractive lot, all variety material with the exception of two plate blocks (of the 4d). Most values to 3/- are represented in a total of 182 stamps, all mint. An ideal start to a specialised collection, or perfect for the expansion of an existing straightforward showing. Offered at a mere fraction of Catalogue price, unrepeatable at £ 41. 25
- (b) 2d Whare. Mint selvage block of 4 of the coarse paper issue (L4f), two stamps showing a brilliantly clear partial offset impression on the reverse. A piece to enhance any collection..... £ 10. 00
- (c) 2½d Mt. Cook and Lilies. Five blocks and a strip, each piece including at least one variety. 30 stamps, all mint, including one block of the scarce coarse paper issue perf 14¼ x 13½ £ 7. 50
- (d) 3/- Mt. Egmont. Re-entries, retouches and plate flaws are featured in this mint and used collection of 24 stamps, at the real bargain price of £ 12. 50
- (e) 3/- Rarity. A first-class used copy of the experimental Wet Printing with watermark inverted-and-reversed. (L14c) The watermark on this copy is crystal-clear. A fine example of a stamp which is seldom seen..... £ 17. 50
- (f) Inverted Watermarks. No less than 16 "inverts", of both the Single and Multiple wmk issues. All values except the 1½d, 2d and 2/- are included. 15 mint, 1 used £ 10. 00
- 815 1960 2½d Titoki. Twelve different varieties on this interesting stamp, all plated. 12 used £ 2. 00
- 816 1962 Telegraph 3d. A comprehensive lot of 30 used copies (yes, 30!) neatly mounted on five album leaves, with detailed annotation of varieties and sheet positions..... £ 4. 95
- 817 1961 Christmas 2½d. Three used copies, all with different retouches..... 55p

POT-POURRI

- 818(a) 1906 Christchurch Exhibition. A very fine mint set, ½d-6d, of this early exhibition issue. Always keenly sought-after, and generally much undervalued. The set of 4 £ 27. 50
- (b) As above. A not-so-fine set. The ½d, 1d, and 3d have some faults; the 6d is a good copy. All are of good appearance. The unused set of 4 £ 16. 50
- (c) As above. Short set of 3-½d, 1d and 3d - all with watermark inverted. First-class mint..... £ 14. 00
- 819 1913 Auckland Exhibition. Short set of 3 (no 6d). Seldom offered other than in complete sets. It is worth noting that the 3d is scarcer than the 6d. The short

	set, fine mint	£ 17.50
820	<u>12/6 Arms.</u> The rare one among the values on Single Watermark paper to £1. A good mint copy	£ 14.00
821	<u>Royal Visit Plate Proof.</u> In 1948 a proposed visit to N. Z. by King George VI, Queen Elizabeth and Princess Margaret was cancelled at short notice owing to the King's illness. A commemorative set of stamps had been prepared, but was never issued. We offer an imperf plate proof of the 5d value of that set, on gummed, NZ and Star watermarked paper, and printed in bright violet. Scarce and desirable	£ 30.00
822(a)	<u>2½d Titoki.</u> Counter coil strip of 4, with numbered join between the third and fourth stamps. The top stamp in the strip has the <u>brown colour totally omitted</u> , the second has the brown partially omitted, the remaining two are normal. A delightful piece for the specialist.	£ 27.50
(b)	<u>As above.</u> A mint imprint block of 9 (3 x 3), with a complete extra strike of the comb perforating head extending from the left selvedge half way across the gutters between the stamps in the first vertical row. A spectacular example of the variety "double perfs"	£ 5.50
823	<u>3d Kowhai.</u> Vertical strip of 3, top stamp with green colour totally omitted, centre stamp with green partially omitted, bottom stamp normal. A striking missing colour, and attractive in this form	£ 22.00
824	<u>1/- Timber.</u> A horizontal strip of 13 with bottom selvedge, and including an overlapped paper reel join affecting three stamps, one of which is printed partly on the end of one reel, and partly on the start of the other. Rare!	£ 71.50
825	<u>1965 ANZAC 5d.</u> A lovely example of the catalogued variety "red colour partly omitted", making the poppy the strangest one you ever did see! Offered in mint vertical pair (the lower stamp in the pair being a normal).	£ 10.00

"CASTLES IN THE AIR"

826 THE VERY RARE DOUBLE PRINT OF THE BLUE COLOUR ON THE
3c LAW SOCIETY CENTENARY ISSUE OF 1969, IN A MINT CORNER
BLOCK OF 4. THIS BLOCK IS UNIQUE, SINCE ONE SHEET ONLY
IS RECORDED WITH THE VARIETY.

THE RARE MINT BLOCK, HIGHLY SPECTACULAR £275.

The most important collection of Dues to come on the market for many years (in fact we cannot recall a comparable lot being available.) , with page upon page of material in the "unobtainable" bracket.

The First, Second and Third Types are all present in profusion, but by far the most substantial section is that covering the 1899 issues. Every value (from C. P. Y1a to Y18a, S. G. D1 to D16) is represented by mint blocks of four, and many - including the 2/- - are also there in used blocks of 4 or more. In addition, there are countless varieties, including "No stops" and double strikes, and the characteristics of the second frame plate are fully explained by reference to four huge mint multiples of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Annotation throughout is detailed and explicit, using photographic enlargements where these clarify a point.

As befits a collection of this calibre, condition is the finest possible throughout, and with the present - and ever increasing - popularity of Postage Dues generally, the investment potential is obvious. Even so we can thoroughly recommend this collection for nothing more than the sheer joy of possessing such a lot.

The Postage Dues Collection £475

COUNTER COIL PAIR VARIETIES

- 828(a) 1960 Pictorial 1/9 Bistre. A scarce pair with black coil number, the left-hand stamp being the R6/16 "retouch to sky-line". Nice! The variety coil pair.... £ 6. 75
- (b) 1967 Pictorial 2½c. An attractive set of three coil pairs, each including a different constant plate variety, as follows:
- Pair 1 - upper stamp R20/4 "Accent on A of LAND" (Blue plate 2B)
 - Pair 2 - lower stamp R1/5 "White cap on Z" (Blue plate 2B)
 - Pair 3 - lower stamp R1/2 white background flaw at top right (Blue plate 2B)
- The three coil pairs £ 1. 75

RECENT ISSUE

2c Butterfly Unwatermarked. Hot on the heels of the 10c Coat of Arms, the 2c also appeared on paper without watermark.

Single, mint or used 2p

Imprint/Plate block of 10, pl. 1A x 4 or 1B x 4, each..... 18p

MEMO

1. Have you renewed your Bulletin/Newsletter sub. yet?
 2. Have you paid for your 1973 Catalogue Revision Sheets?
- If not, both are now overdue.