

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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DID YOU KNOW ? (1)

..... that it has been estimated that a trained human eye is capable of isolating something like ten million different colours ? Perhaps this fact will help one to appreciate the very severe limitations of any so-called guide to the colours of postage stamps; not to mention the absolutely impossible problem facing the editors of stamp catalogues - even of the most highly specialised catalogues - in inventing distinctive names for the myriad of colours and shades which exist on stamps.

The number ten million has no precise meaning to the vast majority of people. To most it is simply a large number. But if we relate it to every individual N. Z. stamp listed in the Gibbons catalogue (say 1000 in round figures), it would mean that for every one of these stamps, there exist about 10,000 shades, and if he were to be absolutely precise, a stamp catalogue editor would have to find a different description for each one. Furthermore even if he succeeded with the first 10,000, he could not afford to repeat himself even once in any of the other 999 ensuing batches ! As I said, completely impossible.

A sensible compromise is therefore essential. In the case of our own Catalogue each stamp is treated individually. Each listed shade given generally represents a group of shades, and the actual description is accurate only when compared to the other shades listed for that stamp. For example, the shade of the 3d King Edward VII definitive described as "chestnut" covers a range of shades, all of which can fairly be called chestnut when related to the other listed shades of deep chestnut and bistre brown. But the chestnut of the 3d Edward is by no means the same as the well-known shade of the Richardson White Paper 6d Full-Face Queen, for which precisely the same description - chestnut - is used.

DID YOU KNOW ? (2)

..... that the perforating head used for the 1961 Christmas stamp of New Zealand was of a most unusual form, certainly as far as N. Z. stamps are concerned ? It was what is usually called a single comb head, in that it had a long row of pins, with short rows of pins at right angles to the long row. Sheets were run through the machine sideways from left to right, so that in this case the long row cut the vertical perforations on the issued sheets, while the short rows (approximately equal in length to the width of a stamp) cut the horizontal perforations.

But whereas the normal single comb head has all of the pins of the short rows on one side of the long row (so that the plan view is rather like that of a hair-comb with widely spaced teeth), the 1961 Christmas "head" had four pins of each short row trailing behind the long row, with the remainder in front of the long row.

It will be evident, therefore, that the first strike of the head on each sheet cut (1) four holes on the left selvedge between each horizontal row; (2) the complete first vertical row of perforations; and (3) all but four holes of the horizontal perfs of the first vertical row of stamps. The next strike (4) completed the unfinished horizontal perfs of the first vertical row of stamps; (5) the whole of the second vertical row of holes, and (6) repeated (3) in the second vertical row of stamps.

As a result of this peculiarity, it should theoretically be possible to find characteristics akin to those of the very well known Chambon experimental machine used on values of the 1960 Pictorials. In this case, however, the normal, narrow or wide "teeth" would occur in the horizontal perforations, between the fourth and fifth holes counting from the right, on every stamp.

I have seen wide "teeth" (good examples of which are offered elsewhere in this Bulletin), and normals, but as yet no "narrows". It would be interesting to know if the latter do in fact exist.

Incidentally, I would presume that the reason for using such a configuration of pins was to provide perfect symmetrical corners on every stamp, thus ensuring good separation of individual stamps when removing them from the sheet. The Chambon machine mentioned above also had this quality, and one wonders why the "perfect corner" method is not more universally used. It would certainly reduce the incidence of stamps with annoying "short corners".

RECENT ISSUES

<u>2c Butterfly.</u>	On thin, noticeably transparent, unwatermarked paper with bluish gum. Mint single ... 2p; block of 4	8p
	Imprint/plate block of 10, pl. 1A1A1A1A or 1B1B1B1B, each	22p
<u>5c Fish.</u>	On unwatermarked paper, with colourless gum. Mint single 6p; block of 4	22p
	Imprint/plate block of 10, pl. 1A1A1A1A or 1B1B1B1B, each	55p
<u>7c Fish.</u>	On unwatermarked paper, with colourless gum. Mint single 8p; block of 4	30p
	Imprint/plate block of 10, pl. 1A1A1A1A or 1B1B1B1B, each	75p
<u>10c Coat of Arms.</u>	On unwatermarked paper, with bluish gum. Mint single 11p; block of 4	42p
	Imprint/plate block of 6, pl. 1A1A1A1A.....	65p
<u>25c Park.</u>	Paper and gum unchanged. New plate no. 23323 Imprint/plate block of 6, pl. 23323	£1.65
<u>30c Park.</u>	Paper and gum unchanged. New plate no. 2212 Imprint/plate block of 6, pl. 2212	£1.95
<u>Special Cancellation on Cover</u>		
6 MAY 1974	Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and New Zealand Conference, Auckland N. Z.	12p

1d UNIVERSAL - THE "BOOKLET" STAMPS

Booklet plate stamps are one of the scarcest of the eleven major issues of the 1d Universal. They are recognisable by the invariably outsized pearl at the top left corner, while complete or part booklet panes are even more readily identified by the selvedge at left and right of each horizontal pair.

701	(a)	Complete Booklet Pane of 6 stamps, with all selvedges. Condition absolutely brilliant mint - as fresh as the day they were issued over 70 years ago. The booklet pane (G7a) (photo)...	£31.00
	(b)	Part Pane. Mint horizontal pair, with selvedge at left and right. Condition as above - superlative! The "Booklet" pair..	£5.00
	(c)	Single Booklet Plate Stamps, Superb-Mint, each	£2.40
	(d)	Used, each.....	70p

1960 PICTORIAL VARIETIES EXTRAVAGANZA

A wealth of exciting material all in the "seldom available" category. Most of the offers below are one only, and cannot be repeated, so our advice is to order by the quickest means available - especially since prices in this issue are on the increase (witness the 1974 Supplement to our Catalogue!).

702		$\frac{1}{2}$ d Manuka. Vertical strip of 4 with selvedge at foot, the bottom stamp of the strip having the blue colour completely omitted. The remaining three stamps are normal. The rare piece, mint..	£27.50
703	(a)	2d Kaka Beak. The major error "Black Colour Omitted", the names of country and flower being entirely absent. Offered in a vertical pair; the upper stamp is completely "nameless", the lower stamp shows faint traces only of the words "NEW ZEALAND" One of the really breathtaking varieties, mint (photo).....	£110.00
	(b)	As above. A delightful oddity resulting from gross misplacement downwards of the perforations, so that the complete name "NEW ZEALAND" appears at the top of the stamp! (See illustration on front cover). The mint single, with normal for comparison ...	£7.50
	(c)	As above. The well known "ZFALAND" variety (resulting from an error of retouching on R3/1 of black plate 2), in mint positional block of 6. Very scarce thus	£20.00
	(d)	As above. Used single with the "ZFALAND" error.....	£6.75
704	(a)	$2\frac{1}{2}$ d Titoki "Silver leaves". Spectacular vertical strip of 4 in which the topmost stamp has the green colour totally omitted (take a look at a normal stamp, and try to imagine the variety if you can!). The second stamp has the green partially omitted; the other two stamps are normal. A magnificent piece, mint	£41.25



701(a)



707(b)



710(a)



703(a)



711(b)



712



709(a)



713

- (b) As above. Mint imprint block of 6 stamps with a complete extra strike of the comb perforating head in the bottom selvedge, giving three stamps with the variety "Partial double perfs". The doubling extends for a distance of 6 holes into the vertical perfs of the bottom row of stamps. Nice ! £5.50

- 705 (a) 3d. Kowhai. A complete collection of the 3d. missing colours colours - yellow omitted, brown omitted and green omitted. The first two are in matching vertical strips of 3, the stamps in each showing the respective colours completely omitted, partially omitted and normal. The "no green" example is a mint single. A superb page in the making £65.00

(If you require any of these errors individually, please let us know !).

- (b) As above. A superb mint corner block of 4 in the very distinctive "Westport" shade, so-called because the tiny supply was found at the post office in that town. The block (shade 5 in our catalogue), guaranteed £11.00

- 706 4d. Puarangi on Chalk-Surfaced Paper (C. P. 06b, S. G. 786a). A staggering mint block of 10 of this rarity, with right selvedge, and including the mysterious but constant "kiss" flaws on R14/9 and 15/8 (from plate 2333, of course). This is one of the very few large blocks of the 4d Chalky known to exist, and the only one known to us showing these particular varieties. A matching block on non-chalky paper, and showing the same "gremlin" flaws, is included. Both blocks are in perfect unhinged and unfolded mint condition, and the chalky paper block carries our unconditional guarantee that it is the real thing. The pair of blocks, probably unique £410

- 707 (a) 5d Daisies. Set of 3 mint copies, one of which has the yellow colour (flower centres) totally omitted, another the yellow widely misplaced, and the third a normal copy (just to prove that they did usually get it right !). The most attractive "Crazy Daisy" set, at a most attractive price (the Cat. value of the missing colour alone is £67.50) £37.50

- (b) As above. Marginal block of 6 with a superb example of the variety "Complete double perfs". This (together with the 1/- example offered later) is far and away the most outstanding perforation variety of the issue. The mint block (photo)... £27.50

- 708 8d Rata. Set of five mint pieces (all positional) showing different states of the two main varieties on this value. The R1/1 "Leaf Flaw" is present as both flaw and retouch, and the R1/9 "Bite out of leaf" is shown in three different states. The five items as described £6.90

709	(a)	<u>9d Flag.</u> Magnificent example of the "Red Colour Omitted" error in a striking strip of 3, the other stamps being a partial omission and a normal. The mint strip, rare (photo) ...	£82.50
	(b)	<u>As above.</u> Top marginal block of 4 with the catalogued variety "Partial double perfs". The mint block	£5.50
710	(a)	<u>1/- Timber Industry.</u> The perfect example of complete double perfs, mentioned earlier. Offered in mint block of 4 with top selvage, the upper pair showing the variety (photo).....	£31.00
	(b)	<u>As above.</u> Mint block of 4, with "Comet streaking across sky" affecting two stamps (doctor blade flaw). The block	£2.25
	(c)	<u>As above.</u> Mint block of 4 from the later plate 10B10C (shade 2 in our Catalogue). The lower pair of stamps in the block show a spectacular "Aurora Borealis" display in the sky	£5.00
711	(a)	<u>1/3 Trout.</u> Major error "Carmine Colour Omitted". The rainbow trout featured in the design has become literally a brown trout ! Unhinged mint single, with normal for comparison	£67.50
	(b)	<u>As above.</u> A 2½mm shift to the right of the brown colour. Result - "Me and my shadow" ! See photo. Marginal mint single (incidentally the blue colour is the scarcer bright "shocking" shade)	£17.50
712		<u>1/9 Bistre.</u> Corner strip of 3 with an astonishingly large pre-printing paper crease affecting all 3 stamps. Such creases were comparatively common in another brown stamp (the 6d Richardson print Chalon Head of long ago), but are rare on modern issues. A small thin spot on the side selvage only, well clear of stamps. The mint strip (photo)	£17.50
713		<u>1/9 Multicoloured.</u> The colour shift to end all colour shifts - the red colour is so widely misplaced horizontally that the aeroplane straddles the gutters between the stamps, leaving a ghost plane doing the crop spraying. Mint pair (photo).....	£33.00
714	(a)	<u>2/- Rock Drawing.</u> Horizontal strip of 5 in which defective printing pressure has affected the buff colour, giving a weirdly pale background on two stamps and half of a third stamp. The strip, mint.....	£13.75
	(b)	<u>As above.</u> Strip of three, from top of sheet, with variety partial double perfs, as catalogued. The mint strip.....	£5.00
715		<u>£1 Geyser.</u> Imprint/plate block of 6 which includes, on R2/1 a large retouch to the sky - the only significant variety on the top value stamp. The mint block	£50.00
716		<u>Chambon Perfs.</u> An absolutely complete display, in the ideal form of mint blocks of 6, thus showing the peculiar Chambon characteristics to perfection. The set of 10 Chambon blocks	

- ½d, 1d (2), 2d, 3d (2), 4d, 6d (2), and 8d - the 1d, 3d and 6d being present on both the original and the chalky paper.
(Now cat. £30 + the set)

£22. 50

1960 PICTORIAL COUNTER COILS

717

We are privileged to offer, on behalf of a client, a quite unique collection of the 1960 "Coils". Commencing with sets of coil pairs of all values, complete in both black and red numbers, the collection goes on to include innumerable varieties in counter coil pairs, and as comprehensive a study of wrappers and centre papers as one could ever hope to see. An additional feature is the inclusion of complete top and bottom rows from sheets printed from most of the many plate number combinations - these are of priceless assistance in "plating" individual coil pairs. Also included is an extensive section devoted to the experimental Chambon perforations, both in relation to counter coil pairs and to the normal sheet issues.

Without doubt, this is THE "definitive" collection of the 1960 coil issues, and as such would readily form the basis for an extensive written section on the coils for a future volume of "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand" - as well as providing the future owner with endless pleasure and enjoyment.

Well in excess of 700 coil pairs, over 150 wrappers and centre papers and over 1300 other stamps, all mint, offered at a price which is considerably less than the catalogue value ignoring the vast majority of the varieties included.

The unique collection..... £1500

718

1961 CHRISTMAS

Mint plate block of 6 from plate 1B1B1B1B, selected to show good examples of wide perforation "teeth" between the fourth and fifth holes from the right in the horizontal perfs of each stamp, due to the peculiar configuration of the perforating head (see the second article in this Bulletin). These blocks also show the four holes of the first strike in the left selvage. The plate block, mint

£2. 40

QUEEN ELIZABETH 1d "LARGE FIGURE" - RARE VARIETY

719

The outstanding and extremely rare weak entry state of Row 10 no. 22 from plate 11 (C. P. NV31a). Because of the prominence of the weak entry, and because of its rarity (only a tiny handful of examples are known to exist) it is certain that the defective impression was noticed and massively retouched before the bulk of the issued sheets were printed, and probable that the few examples known are from proof sheets which were subsequently issued with the main supply. We offer both states - the weak entry and the retouch - in mint plate blocks (the variety being the bottom left stamp in a plate block of 6)..... £185

Q. E. HEADS - USED VARIETIES

A superbly comprehensive listing of the plate varieties of the Q. E. definitives. All items offered are from the personal collection of the distinguished philatelist Mr Frank Mohr, who contributed the sections dealing with the Q. E. varieties in Volume 4 of "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand", and all carry Mr Mohr's identification, pencilled lightly on the back.

720	<u>1¹/₂d Grey.</u>	Plate 2, R8/4 retouch (NV1a). In pair with normal	£3.75
721	<u>1d Orange.</u>	Plate 5, R4/6 retouch (NV2a). Single	£3.75
722	<u>1¹/₂d Lake Brown.</u>	Plate 14, R1/20 retouch (NV3a). Single	£4.25
723 (a)	<u>2d Myrtle Green.</u>	Plate 16, R4/2 retouch (NV4a). Single	£4.25
(b)	<u>As above.</u>	Plate 15, R3/12 and 3/13 retouches (NV4b). Two singles.	£4.00
724 (a)	<u>3d Vermilion.</u>	Plate 22, R5/11 retouch (NV5a). Single	£2.75
(b)	<u>As above.</u>	Plate 23, R8/3 retouch (NV5b). Single.....	£4.85
(c)	<u>As above.</u>	Plate 24, R6/6 retouch (NV5c). Single.....	£6.90
(d)	<u>As above.</u>	Plate 24, R6/19 retouch (NV5d). Single.....	£4.85
(e)	<u>As above.</u>	Plate 26, R4/2 second retouch (NV5e(Z)). Single..	£9.00
(f)	<u>As above.</u>	Plate 27, R10/7 retouch (NV5f). Single.....	£4.85
(g)	<u>As above.</u>	Plate 30, R4/8 retouch (NV5g). Single.....	£9.00
(h)	<u>As above.</u>	Plate 21, R4/14 retouch (NV5h). Single	£2.75
(i)	<u>As above.</u>	Plate 21, R6/8 retouch (NV5j). Single.....	£3.45
(j)	<u>As above.</u>	Plate 23, R5/15 retouch (NV5k). Single.....	£2.75
(k)	<u>As above.</u>	Plate 25, R2/4 retouch (NV5m). Single	£3.75
(l)	<u>As above.</u>	Plate 25, R6/14 retouch (NV5n). Single.....	£11.75
725	<u>6d Purple.</u>	Plate 6, R4/19 retouch (NV7a(2)). Single.....	£5.50
726	<u>8d Rose-Carmine.</u>	Plate 20, R6/16 second retouch (NV8a(Z)). Single.	£5.50
727	<u>2d "Large Figure" (N33a).</u>	Plate 3, R1/21. Frame line doubled in top left corner. Single.....	£2.75
728	<u>Low Values Varieties Collection.</u> Magnificent set of 25 stamps, comprising all items listed in lots 720 - 727, plus 4 additional varieties, including NV5e first retouch, NV5p and NV7a(1) the scarce flaw state. The remaining item - 3d, pl. 24, R5/5 - is uncatalogued, but is fully described in Vol. 4 of the Handbooks. Close to completion per the variety listings in Vol. 4. The set of 25 used varieties, all guaranteed correctly identified. An unrepeatable lot.....		£110.00

Note: To be continued