

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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A PEEP INTO THE PAST

by Colin Hamilton

Purely from a reference point of view, old auction catalogues form a useful source of information for the philatelist, particularly in those cases where the sale was of an outstanding collection, with rare and important items included, and illustrated.

But paired with a list of prices realised, they at once assume an added fascination, allowing a direct comparison with present-day values of similar material.

The other day I was browsing through just such a catalogue - largely devoted to the N. Z. section of the world-famous collection formed by the late Maurice Burrus, which went under the hammer in mid-1963.

The Burrus 'New Zealand' was notable for its wealth of Chalon Heads, which included many large multiples (I wonder how many of these remain intact today?), but there was also a liberal sprinkling of - comparatively speaking - more down-to-earth material, with later issues to about 1950.

The following is a representative selection of realisations :

1855 London Print 1d, mint o.g. pair £2400; used copy, very fine £750; another, fine used £375.

1855 London Print 2d, mint o.g. pair £620; superb used copy £65; very fine used copy £24; very fine used pair on entire £80.

1855 Richardson Blue Paper 1/- very fine used £130.

1862 Davies Print 1d, brilliant mint block of 20 £1000; fine mint copy £14; superb used copy with enormous margins £45.

1862 Davies Print 1/-, fine used copy £6/10/-.

1864-67 Set of 8 to 1/-, unused £29.

1864-67 4d Rose, very fine unused £14.

First Sideface 2/- and 5/-, mint marginal blocks of 4 £72/10/-.

1898-1908 Pictorials mint collection of 122 (incl. 5 x 5/-) with shade, perf and wmk variations £36.

Christchurch Exhibition (2 mint sets), Auckland Exhibition (mint set and set used on cover) plus 25 K. E. VII Heads to 1/- mint £21.

Collection of K. G. V Definitives, Commemoratives and Air Stamps, all in mint blocks of 4 (50 blocks) £25.
2/- and 3/- Admirals in mint blocks of 4 £15.

Healthis 1929-35 and 1937 (including 1931s !) in mint blocks of 4 £33.

This list demonstrates clearly that the really outstanding classic item always has (and always will) commanded a premium price. But equally it spells out loud and clear that as far as the more

'ordinary' Chalone, and all the later issues, are concerned, the appreciation in value in 10 short years has been quite phenomenal - bearing in mind that in 'big name' sales such as the Burrus one, realisations tend to be higher than normal.

One final thought. I wonder how silly today's prices for these, and for many more recent issues, will look when 1984 comes along?

Footnote: Also seen recently - a priced catalogue issued in 1908, listing issues of the whole world in considerable detail, and in fairly large type. Even so, the volume would have slipped very comfortably into one's jacket pocket. I repeat just two examples of prices : 1855 London Print 1d used 80/-; 1906 Christchurch Exhibition set, mint 1/5d (individual prices of the four values were 1d, 2d, 5d and 9d respectively). Those were the days !

KING GEORGE VI

Continuing our offers of choice material from the 'Claude Scott' collection. K. G. VI is one of the sections being thoroughly revised in the forthcoming 1974 C. P. Catalogue Supplement, and in addition to the inclusion of new information, there will be some eye-opening revaluations !

- 301 $\frac{1}{2}$ d Chestnut. Three mint blocks of 4, one on each of the listed papers (M1b, M1c and M1d). As long as stocks permit, we shall select blocks showing a range of shades. The three blocks 40p
- 302 (a) $\frac{1}{2}$ d Chestnut, Fine HM Paper (M1b). Plate blocks complete, with the plate numbers 17, 18 and 19 on both left and right selvages. Also included is an imprint block. Seven mint blocks, giving a complete collection of the selvedge markings.....£ 3. 85
- (b) As above. We can offer individual plate blocks of 4, as follows, for the collector who requires only a representative block in his collection.
- i) Plate 17, left or right, each13p
- ii) Plate 19, left or right, each13p
- (c) As above. A complete mint sheet of 240 from plate 17, with all selvedge markings. Superb research material. The sheet..... £ 3. 00
- 303 (a) $\frac{1}{2}$ d Chestnut, Fine VM Paper (M1c). Imprint/Plate block of 6, from plate 100, mint... 40p
- (b) As above. Imprint/Plate block of 6, from plate 101, mint..... 26p
- 304 (a) $\frac{1}{2}$ d Chestnut, Coarse VM Paper (M1d). Imprint/Plate block of 6, from either plate 111 or 133 (your choice). Each block, mint 30p
- (b) As above. Block of 4 from bottom of sheet, with two extra strikes of perfs in bottom selvedge (which is normally devoid of vertical perfs). The interesting and inexpensive variety 'double perfs in selvedge', mint.....30p
- (c) As above. Set of 3 variety blocks, all from plate 133, showing constant 'retouches to frame lines' on five stamps. Full description supplied. The three variety blocks, mint £ 1. 25
- 305 (a) 1d Green, Fine HM Paper (M2b). Never a particularly common stamp (despite its lowly catalogue value), but here represented by no less than eight shade blocks of 4, a variety block, and three imprint/plate blocks (from plates 29, 30 and 31). The plate 29 block is from an issued part sheet (as a wartime economy measure, the N. Z. postal authorities accepted some part sheets from the printers). Some minor staining, but an unusual opportunity at a bargain price.... £ 3. 50
- (b) As above. The plate 31, R3/17 retouch, as listed and illustrated in our Catalogue. Offered in mint block with selvedge. Scarce£ 5.00

- 306 (a) 1d Green, Fine VM Paper (M2c). Three shades on normal paper, and two on very noticeably thinner paper, all in mint blocks of 4, plus a mint single with inverted watermark (scarce). The shades are good contrasts, and this lot will make a most attractive page £ 4.50
- (b) As above. Imprint/Plate blocks of 8 stamps (from the original position at the centre of the bottom selvedge). With plate nos. 28, 29 or 30 (Please state plate no. required), each block 60p
- (c) As above. Imprint/Plate blocks of 8, from plates 32 or 33, each block 45p
- (d) As above. Imprint/Plate blocks of 8, from plates 34 or 36, each block 75p
- (e) As above. Complete sheet of 240 from plate 29. Some foxing in places, but more excellent research material. The complete sheet £ 3.50
- (f) As above. Imprint/Plate blocks of 6 stamps (from plates with the marginal inscription moved to the bottom left corner of the printed sheets). Plate nos. 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108 and 109.
The complete set of 8 plate blocks, mint £ 2.00
- (We can supply any of the plate blocks in the above lot individually at 30p each. Wants lists welcomed).
- (g) As above. Imprint/Plate block of 6 stamps (from pl. 107) with wmk inverted.
Rare ! £17.50
- 307 (a) 1d Green, Coarse VM Paper (M2d). Two fine shades in mint blocks of 4, an additional block on very much thinner paper, and three imprint/plate blocks showing the three positions on the bottom selvedge in which these markings were situated - central (on all plates up to no. 85), at the left (plates 108-126), and at the right (plate 128). A page full of informative interest £ 3.00
- (b) As above. The 1d on Coarse VM Paper was the most prolific in plate numbers of all the K, G, VI issues, and we list below the individual plate blocks available from stock (all plate nos. up to 85 are in blocks of 8, others are in corner blocks of 6).
- | | |
|--|--------|
| Pl. nos. 43, 65 or 66, each | £ 1.85 |
| Pl. nos. 70, 71, 84 or 85, each | £ 2.50 |
| Pl. nos. 72, 73, 77 or 78, each | 60p |
| Pl. nos. 108 or 109, each | £ 1.25 |
| Pl. nos. 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117,
118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125
or 128, each | 30p |
- (c) As above. Pl. no. 126. Very rare. A crease affects two stamps, but now cat. § 150 (about £95), so a fine opportunity for someone at, the rare block £50.00

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1965 PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE - RARE VARIETY

Five or six years ago, we handled a first day cover bearing a full set of the Conference stamps - the 2/- value being the major variety 'Red omitted' (S. G. 837Ea). This cover lent strong support to our view that the variety had passed unnoticed at the time of issue, by proving that the 'missing reds' had in fact been sold so early that very few of the general public (including collectors) could have been familiar with the appearance of the normal stamp.

Now the full circle has turned, and we can again offer that same cover. And nothing has happened in the meantime to alter our theory; to our knowledge no further examples, mint, used, or on cover, have turned up. The cover is postmarked Papatoetoe, and was obviously sent from one private individual to another (yet another pointer to the probability that the error stamps were dispersed haphazardly over the post office counter).

The extremely rare variety, very possibly unique on cover £187.50

"THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF NEW ZEALAND"

Demand for all of these superb Handbooks is ever-increasing, and with the total numbers in existence strictly limited, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find them, either in sets or as individual volumes. Additional interest is bound to be created by the publication of Volume 6 in the not-too-distant future, and this is certain to put even more pressure on the out-of-print volumes. The moral should be crystal-clear !

At present, we have copies of the following available :

- 309 Volume 2. Complete with the six magnificent colour proofs from specially made dies of the Chalon Head design. The entire book is in immaculate condition £22.50
- 310 Volume 4. The 'bible' for collectors of K. G. VI and Q. E. issues - but also a veritable mine of information on earlier issues, postal history, proofs, etc. Also in beautiful condition £18.50

NOTE: We are already taking advance orders for Volume 6. No definite date for publication has yet been announced, although we understand the vast task of preparation and collation of the text is well advanced, and going on apace.

NEW ISSUE

5th Feb. 1974. New Zealand Day (this is actually celebrated on 6th Feb., but since the 6th is now a public holiday, the stamps were issued a day early).
Miniature sheet of 5 different 4c stamps, depicting respectively Treaty House Waitangi, Signing of the Treaty of Waitangi, HM the Queen, Parliament Buildings Extensions, and a Co-educational School Class.

The miniature sheet 21p
Complete miniature sheet used on illustrated
First Day Cover, postmarked Wellington 28p

Recent Varieties

3c Moth. Watermark inverted, from sheet (not to be confused with the very scarce 'invert' from booklets, which of course has the watermark sideways). This one has the inverted variety of the normal upright watermark. Mint single 10p; mint block of 4 40p

3c Moth. Very prominent retouch to large flaw affecting two adjacent stamps, Row 3, nos. 9 - 10 (pl. 1A2A1A). In mint block of 6 with top selvage 32p

4c Moth on unwmk'd paper. An extensive horizontal scratch affecting the blue plate occurs on Row 4, nos. 5-7 from pl. 1Ax5. Clearly seen variety, offered in mint selvage block of 14 ... 73p

4c Moth on unwmk'd paper. Mint block of 4 with pronounced misplacement of the green wing-veins. Two different shifts - equally spectacular - are available. In one, the veins are misplaced upwards and to the right and project into the top gutters of the stamps. In the other, the shift is to the right, so that the veins appear on the rear wings. Either variety in mint block, each £ 1.45

Special Pictorial Cancellations on Cover

15/12/73 Centenary Auckland - Onehunga Railway 12p

22/12/73 Kingston Flyer, Lumsden (steam locomotive annual run) 12p

(Both of the above covers are stamped, appropriately, with the 3c value of the Locomotive set issued last year.)

29/12/73 Boys' Brigade Camp, 73/74, Tomoana 12p

Commonwealth Games - Special Cancellations

Five special pictorial datestamps were used to commemorate the Games (three for the Xth British Commonwealth Games, and two for the IVth British Commonwealth Paraplegic Games.) We offer the complete set on five illustrated covers, two of which bear complete sets of the Games stamps.

The five covers, a unique postal record of the very last British Commonwealth Games £ 1.85