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"IT COULD NEVER HAPPEN TO ME....."

by Colin Hamilton

..... That, I suspect, may well be a typical reaction to reports in the columns of both the Bulletin and the N. Z. Newsletter (and such reports are not so very infrequent) of good "finds" made by staff members. But I wonder how many stop and contemplate just why "it could never happen to me"? The fact is that the vast majority of these discoveries are there for anyone to make; there is no mystique which gives the "expert" (professional or amateur) some kind of "divine right of discovery". It might be argued that the professional sees more stamps than most of his fellows, and therefore by the simple law of averages ought to be more successful at finding the pearls, but this completely overlooks the obvious point that while the expert no doubt does handle a larger volume of material he does not necessarily (nor indeed usually) see his material before anyone else has seen it!

Even so, it appears in practice that it is usually left to the expert to make most of the finds - or at the very least, most of those which are reported.

It is therefore particularly pleasing to record that it can happen to a collector. Recently Mr. Maurice Smith of the U. S. A. purchased an assortment of blocks of the Second Pictorial issue. Included were three blocks of the 2/- Captain Cook Landing, one of which contained the R1/4 COQK flaw, another had a pre-printing paper crease, and the third was a plate block. The accompanying annotation rather vaguely indicated that there was "some doubling of the design". Nothing very remarkable about that, as the speaker of the title of this note would surely say. He might even have a quick look for a re-entry. If he found one, well and good. If not, he'd no doubt be convinced that "I'll never get the hang of this re-entry business".

Mr. Smith, however, closely examined his purchase, and discovered clear signs of albino printing on all three blocks. He has since shown me the block with the pre-printing crease, and I was able to confirm that it was in fact not merely a double print, one albino (though that would have been nice enough), but the rare treble print, two albino variety of the perf 12½ fine paper issue (L13e in the C. P. Catalogue). I have not yet seen the other two blocks, but Maurice tells me that the plate block is also the treble print variety, and the COQK block is the double print, one albino variety of the L13f. All in all, quite a find!

Since, according to Vol. 2. of "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand", only one sheet of each of these varieties existed, it is stretching the bounds of coincidence too far to accept that all three blocks just happened to be together in the same lot. It must, I think, be presumed that they had at some time been identified for what they are. One wonders, therefore, how on earth they came to assume their anonymity, especially in view of the fact that they had, to the certain knowledge of their present owner, lately passed through the hands of at least two dealers (neither of whom, need I add, was C. P. Ltd!).

Which brings us back, more or less, to where we came in. So what is the lesson for our hypothetical pessimist? I am sure it is that "positive thinking" (or to be rather more accurate, "non-negative thinking") is a highly desirable and much underrated virtue, and one which incidentally is by no means

limited to the narrow confines of philately. What is more, it is one of the few things it doesn't cost a cent to acquire. The moment anyone learns the habit of never automatically accepting anything for what it appears at first sight to be, he will never again be reduced to the conclusion that "It can never happen to me".

STAMPEX 1974 - AWARD WINNING N. Z. EXHIBITORS

We offer hearty congratulations to all of the following on their successes:

Silver Medals: (both with felicitations): Mr. Alan Rose (1d Kiwi) and Mrs. Rita Gilders (1d Second Sideface).

Bronze-Silver Medals: Mr. Stanley Cross-Rudkin (1d Universal), Mr. Cross-Rudkin again (for K. E. VII); Mr. A. B. Johnstone (1d Universal/1d Dominion); Mr. John Smith (King George VI 1/- value); Mr. John Murr (N. Z. Forces Medical Services postmarks and cachets, 1st. World War).

Bronze Medals: Mr. F. G. Fifoot (1d Universals); Mr. A. B. Johnstone (1946 Peace); Master R. M. J. Smith (Junior Class, 1967-69 Pictorials).

Diploma: Mr. Peter Marks (4c/2½c Provisional).

SELDOM OFFERED

Items selected at random - but all of a type to give that special touch of distinction to a collection:

- 401 First Sideface High Values. Exceptionally fine used copies of the 2/- and 5/- .
The former has a neat Dunedin c. d. s. dated 20 DE 84, while the latter has a
light cancellation of bars leaving the face and head completely clear. Two used
stamps of the very highest quality, and rare in this superb condition £ 48. 50
- 402 1913 Auckland Exhibition. Registered cover from Auckland to Wellington franked
with a block of 6 of the ½d Auckland Exhibition stamp. A clean neat cover, showing
correct usage of the Exhibition stamps (they were officially only valid for internal
postage, and for mail to Australia), although used blocks of this size must be very
few and far between. The registered cover £ 27. 50
- 403 K. G. V. 5d Blue. A splendid pair of the major error "Completely Imperf". Mint. . £ 27. 50
- 404 1931 Healths. Beautiful well-centred fresh mint blocks of 4 of the Red and
Blue Boys £ 135. 00
- 405 1935 1d Kiwi. Complete 2/- booklet of the die 2 issue (L2c), containing 4 panes
of 6 with "Parisian" advertisements in selvages (all 4 panes, incidentally, have
inverted wmk). The staples, as one would expect, are somewhat rusted, but the
booklet itself is in superb condition throughout £ 16. 50
- 406 1954 Q. E. 2d Green. Plate block of 6 from plate 17 with really major plate
crack. Rare. £ 8. 25
- 407 1954 Q. E. 4d Official. Perfect mint single of the error "Printed on the gummed
side", and with wmk inverted-and-reversed. From the only known sheet printed .. £ 33. 00
- 408 a) 1972 4c on 2½c Provisional. (Harrison Letterpress Issue). Plate block of 10 from
plate 1A x 4, with the variety "Double print of surcharge, one albino". The albino
impression (2mm to the right of the printed surcharge) was unusually heavy, and is
therefore very noticeable, especially when the block is viewed from the back. £ 40. 00
- b) As above. A few mint singles with the "Double print, one albino" variety are
available at, each £ 2. 75

- 409 King Edward VII Land. 1d. Used on official cover of the 1907 British Antarctic Expedition, and cancelled by the special Expedition datestamp of FE 3 / 08.
Very scarce on cover £ 25. 00

SECOND SIDEFACES - SOME UNUSUAL MULTIPLES

- 410 (a) 2½d Blue. Mint block of 4 from the scarce original issue on "Life Insurance" paper. (D4a) in the dull blue shade. Well centered and fine £ 15. 00
- (b) As above. Very fine used block of 6, perf 10 (D4e), postmarked WHAREORA (an office which was closed in 1918). The used block. £ 3. 00
- 411 (a) 3d Yellow. Original issue, perf 12 x 11½ (D5a). A remarkable used block of 8, in excellent condition. Such a block MUST be rare - at any rate we have never seen another like it! £ 10. 00
- (b) As above. Superfine mint block of 4, perf 10 (D5e), the upper two stamps having large and prominent uncoloured flaws on the Queen's portrait. The block £ 6. 75
- 412 (a) 1/- Red-Brown. Mint pair, perf 10 (D10e). centred slightly to top, but nice! £ 5. 50
- (b) As above. A truly superb mint pair with gutter between (the stamps being from adjacent panes in the sheets as issued). Wonderful colour centring and general condition. A delightful piece to own. £ 8. 50
- 413 (a) Postmarks. 50 pairs and a block of 4 of the 1d Rose, all specially selected for their cancellations, which include squared circles, coin types, concentric circles, duplex, and a complete boxed 'loose letter' mark. A lovely beginning to a superior postmark collection. The lot £ 13. 75
- (b) As above. 74 stamps from the period First Sidefaces - K. G. V., including better values, showing an interesting range of postmarks (those noted include a complete strike of the Christchurch Exhibition datestamp, the scarce spelling ASHURST, and a part strike of the short-lived Esk Railway Works). The fascinating lot £ 12. 50

K. G. V. SURFACE - PRINTED

- 414 Watermark Reference Set. Do you have trouble sorting out the various watermarks which occur in these issues? If so, then this lot is tailor-made for you. We have prepared a reference set showing the six quite different types you will encounter:-

1. De La Rue. Example: 1½d orange-brown, used (K17b).
2. Jones. Example: 3d "Official", used (K019b).
3. Lithographed "Watermark". Example: 2d mint (K18c).
4. Cowan. Example: ½d "Official", perf 14x15, used (K013e).
5. Cowan Reversed. Example: ½d used (K13g).
6. Wiggins Teape. Example: 1d used (K15d).

The reference set of 6, as described £ 1. 00

- N. B. The object in the above set has been to select six "face-different" reference copies, for immediate recognition, but should demand for sets be exceptionally heavy, we may have to introduce another ½d as a substitute example of the "Lithographed". If so, the price of the set will be adjusted accordingly, although we would emphasise that the information value of the set will be unimpaired.

415 (a)	<u>$\frac{1}{2}$d Green, Experimental Paper Issue.</u> The scarce one on thick highly-surfaced paper, but with "De La Rue" type watermark. Mint block of 4.	£ 8. 25
(b)	<u>As above.</u> Never - hinged mint single	£ 2. 10
(c)	<u>As above.</u> Fine used - very elusive thus	£ 3. 75
(d)	<u>As above.</u> Superfine used block of 4, with light central c. d. s. (Gonville, 23 SP I6). Rare, and lovely	£ 17. 50

1958 HEALTH MINIATURE SHEETS

As many readers will know, individual sheets of both values of this issue have characteristics which allow them to be assigned to the eight different positions on the plate. While stocks last, we can supply sheets from the following positions (full description of the plating characteristics included with each). Numbering follows the listing on pp. 331 - 332 of Volume 4.

416	<u>2d⁺ + 1d Green.</u> Miniature sheet no. 2, 3, 4, 6, or 7, each	62p
417 (a)	<u>3d + 1d Blue.</u> Miniature sheet no. 2, 4, 6, or 8. each	62p
(b)	<u>3d + 1d Blue.</u> Miniature sheet no. 8, as above, <u>but with stamps 3 and 6 having retouched tents</u>	£ 3. 45

K. G. VI COUNTER COIL PAIRS

C. P. Rubber-stamped coil numbers.

418 (a)	MC1b 1d Green, fine VM paper	10p
(b)	MC1e 2d Yellow - Orange, coarse HM paper	24p
(c)	MC1e As above, complete set nos 1 - 19	£ 4. 50
(d)	MC1e As above, variety coil number doubled	50p
(e)	MC1j 6d Carmine, fine VM paper	52p

Large, machine - printed coil numbers

419 (a)	MC2a 2d Yellow - orange, coarse VM paper	14p
(b)	MC2a As above, variety coarse VM and coarse HM papers combined	55p
(c)	MC2b 2d Yellow - orange coarse HM paper	24p
(d)	MC2c 3d Blue, fine VM paper	17p
(e)	MC2c As above, complete set nos 1 - 19	£ 3. 25
(f)	MC2d 3d Blue, coarse VM paper	52p
(g)	MC2e 4d Magenta, fine VM paper	35p
(h)	MC2e As above, complete set nos 1 - 19	£ 6. 50
(i)	MC2e As above, variety fine VM and coarse VM papers combined	70p
(j)	MC2f 4d Purple - mauve, coarse VM paper	41p
(k)	MC2g 5d Grey, fine VM paper	52p
(l)	MC2h 6d Carmine, fine VM paper	21p
(m)	MC2h As above, complete set, nos 1 - 19	£ 3. 75
(n)	MC2j 8d Violet, fine VM paper	55p
(o)	MC2l 9d Brown - sepia, variety fine VM and coarse VM papers combined	70p
(p)	MC2m 9d Brown - sepia, coarse VM paper	52p

(q)	MC2n 1/- Brown/claret, centre die 1, variety wmk upright and wmk sideways combined	£ 1. 05
(r)	MC2o 1/- Brown/claret, centre die 1, wmk sideways	70p
(s)	MC2p 1/- Brown/claret, centre die 2, wmk upright	70p
(t)	MC2r 1/3 Brown/blue, frame die 1b, wmk sideways	£ 1. 05

KING GEORGE VI SPECIALISED

More tempting offers of these issues, in which interest is again very much on the increase.

- 420 (a) 1d Green, Coarse VM paper (M2d). Complete sheet of 240 from plate 72, which of course includes both of the varieties - on R5/7 and R8/4 - as detailed in Vol. 4 of "The Postage/Stamp of New Zealand". With all selvages, and in fine mint condition. The sheet £ 4. 00
- (b) As above. Positional block of 18 from plate 77, which includes the extensive R3/6 touching up (again described in Vol. 4). The variety block £ 2. 50
- (c) As above. Two upper corner blocks of 12 from plate 115, eleven of the 24 stamps showing signs of "shifted transfer", which takes the form of doubling of the lettering "postage & Revenue". In R1/22 the doubling is especially prominent. The two blocks 75p
- (d) As above. Plate block of 12 stamps from plate 115, including R10/6 which shows pronounced doubling of the design at both upper corners 60p
- 421 (a) 1d Green, Coarse HM paper. (M2e). By a long way the scarcest of the K. G. VI "Penny Greens". Mint block of 4 75p
- (b) As above. Complete representation of all three retouches to plate 85, as listed in Vol. 4. R2/22 is in a marginal block of 4; R8/15 and R9/17 are in a block of 21 with imprint and plate number. Very scarce £ 14. 50
- 422 1½d Rose-red, Fine HM Paper (M4b). A very fine "single value" collection comprising two good shades in blocks of 4; plate numbers complete in corner blocks of 8 (two each of plates 20 and 21); imprint block; and two variety blocks, one being the clear "naked eye" retouch on R8/18 from plate 20. The nine blocks, all mint £ 6. 25
- 423 (a) 1½d Rose-red, Coarse VM Paper (M4c). Another excellent basic lot, with shade blocks (2), and combined plate/imprint blocks complete (8). The ten blocks, mint (N. B. The present C. P. Catalogue listing omits Imprint/Plate nos. 20 and 21, which exist on this paper. The omission will be rectified in the 1974 Revision of Section M.) £ 3. 50
- (b) As above. For collectors wishing to fill gaps, we can supply imprint/plate blocks individually as follows:
- (i) Plate 20 or 21 (in blocks of 8), each 50p
- (ii) Plate 129 (in block of 6, which includes the catalogued R9/22 retouch) 60p
- (iii) Plate 130, 131, 132, 136, or 137, each 32p
- (c) As above. The Plate 20, R8/18 retouch, in mint positional block £ 3. 25
- (d) As above. The same variety, but in non-positional block of 6, with selvedge £ 2. 50
- (e) As above. Plate 21, R4/10 retouch to King's forehead. In addition to the retouch, this stamp is peculiar in that the whole of the King's head appears distinctly paler than in those surrounding it. Offered in mint block of 12 £ 2. 50

- (f) As above. Block of 10 (rows 4 - 8, Nos 1 and 2) with side selvage, with signs of the plate number 21 remaining beside R4/1 (before printings on the coarse VM paper commenced, the plate numbers had been transferred to the bottom centre of the plate). Supplied with a matching block on fine HM paper, which of course has the plate number in its original position. Both blocks include shifted transfer varieties on R4/1, 5/1 and 8/1. The interesting pair of blocks £ 1. 50
- (g) As above. Complete sheets of 240 from both plates 20 and 21 on the coarse paper, incorporating all the varieties and points of interest mentioned above. The plate 21 sheet has a vertical crease, and a tear affects two stamps; the plate 20 sheet is fine, with only a little splitting of perfs. at one or two points. The two sheets, wonderful research material £ 10. 00
- (h) As above. Extensive retouching was carried out on Plate 132, R9/11 and 9/18. Both varieties are here offered, each in mint block of 4 with selvage. The two variety blocks £ 1. 85
- 424 (a) 2d Yellow-Orange, Coarse VM Paper (M6a). This value is notable for its quite astonishing range of shades, and we have made up a set of eight blocks which will mount up into a really gorgeous orange "rainbow" of a page. The eight shade blocks, one of which is on ultra-thin pelure paper. Mint £ 2. 00
- (b) As above. Imprint/Plate 40, 41, 44, 46, 51, 54, 55, 61, 62, 68, 75, 76, 79, 80 or 82. In blocks of 8 stamps, each 50p
- (c) As above. Imprint/Plate 140, 141, 142, 143, 144 or 145. In blocks of 6 stamps, each block 32p
- (d) Plate Blocks Complete. One of each of the plate blocks listed in lots (b) and (c) above. The complete set of 21 blocks, all mint £ 8. 50
- (e) Rare Inverted Wmk. Mint single of the 2d "invert" (believed to have been issued only in counter coils) £ 12. 50
- 425 (a) 2d Yellow-Orange, Coarse HM Paper (M6b). Shades are not so numerous here, but we can offer two excellent contrasts in mint blocks of 4. The two blocks 60p
- (b) As above. Imprint/Plate 79, 81, 86, 87, 88 or 89. Each block (of 8 stamps) mint 75p
- (c) As above. The rare plate no. 82, in superfine mint block of 8 £ 30. 00
- (d) Plate Blocks Complete. Set of 7 blocks as listed in the previous two offers, at the special price of £ 32. 50
- 426 2d Plate Varieties. Magnificent set of 13 blocks, giving the varieties listed in Volume 4 virtually complete (Pl. 86 R3/7 is absent, and Pl. 62 R6/22 is included in the retouched state only). In addition, there are a number of other constant but unlisted varieties, all fully described and identified. The variety collection £ 17. 50

427

K. G. VI 1/-, FRAME PLATE 2.

As a result of some intensive research by Mr. Frank Mohr and Mr. Campbell Paterson, an article by Mr. Paterson in the N. Z. Newsletter for June 1951 (a long time ago now!) set out evidence strongly suggesting that the order of laying down the impressions on this plate could be deduced from characteristics present on the issued stamps. This was made possible by the progressive development of transfer roller flaws (rather in the manner of the 1d Dominion transfer die used to lay down plate 12). We offer a complete sheet of the 1/- from frame plate 2 (in combination with centre plate 3A), together with a copy of Mr. Paterson's article. A fine item in its own right, but guaranteed to give anyone with an inquiring mind hours of pleasure. A few perfs have split, but the sheet is in unusually fresh condition. The mint sheet (total cat. now in excess of \$80, or £55) £ 20. 00