

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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ARE YOUR EYES OPEN?

by Derek Redshaw.

The past year or so has been an astonishingly active one as far as the current definitive issues of New Zealand are concerned. Hardly a week has passed without the discovery of a new variety - many of these being major ones such as missing colours - or the issue of further values on unwatermarked paper. A glance through the N. Z. Newsletters for the period will indicate how briskly the news has been forthcoming, and how alert our colleagues in Auckland have had to be to keep abreast of the developments.

Many of those reported varieties have been offered to subscribers to our New Issue Variety Service, although nearly all have been in mint condition.

Sooner or later, such activity is bound always to be reflected in used sources such as kiloware or covers, so the used collector could well have an opportunity of sharing with his "mint" fellows this wealth of philatelic material. Indeed one of our many collector friends reports that he has already so to speak "struck gold", in that he has unearthed a used copy of the present 4c on unwatermarked paper with "Bright Green Omitted", from a box of commercially-used envelopes received from New Zealand. It is worth noting that this same collector has the 1968, 28c Fox Glacier with watermark inverted - still the only recorded copy - being discovered in similar fashion to his present find. One gentleman whose eyes certainly are open.

So of all specialists/collectors of used New Zealand material we ask Are Your Eyes Open? They should be because now is the time to discover those varieties that have been reported over so many months, and also perhaps to find a previously unrecorded gem, like the 28c mentioned above.

Now we learn that in November 1975 - just a little more than a year hence - the entire range of the present definitive set, up to and including the 10c, is to be replaced by an entirely new series, so that many of the current stamps in their various printings (and not forgetting any further changes still to come, for example the 3c and 8c on unwatermarked paper?) are going to have, for definitive issues, a short life. Yet another excellent reason for posing the question - "Are your eyes open?"

S. G. "BRITISH COMMONWEALTH" CATALOGUE 1975

The new edition of the big "red" Gibbons (published on August 16th), states that price alterations throughout the catalogue are more numerous than ever before, and that rises in general are steeper than previously. Certainly considerable attention has been paid to the New Zealand

listings, with increases noted in all periods from 1855. Some are very substantial rises indeed, for example SG 1 used up from £550 to £1000, SG 185 and 186 used up by well over 200% to £18 each, SG 425a up from £400 to £450, the 1906 Christchurch Exhibition set mint up from £18.75 to £27, with most other early Commemoratives and Healths showing marked increases; the first type Postage Dues also go up, many by over 100%.

Some of the increases mentioned are merely confirmation of new valuations announced earlier in the year but even so, the 1975 prices can in no case be said to be trend-setting. They are rather following the trend, and in many cases still do not reflect the true present situation, as far as N. Z. is concerned.

This is not intended to be taken as a carping criticism. As usual, the catalogue represents a phenomenal amount of work impeccably produced, and bearing in mind that it is a general catalogue it maintains a remarkably high standard.

Q. E. MIDDLE VALUES - USED VARIETIES CONTINUED.

This month we feature the frame plate varieties. As before, all are from the collection of F. J. Mohr, the distinguished philatelist who was responsible for the section of Q. E. varieties in Volume 4 of "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand", and all carry Mr. Mohr's identification lightly in pencil on the backs. Interested collectors are referred to Volume 4 and to the C. P. Catalogue for full details of the varieties.

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|---------|--|--------|
| 901 | <u>9d Frame Plate 1B, R7/5.</u> A clear retouch affecting the inner frame line at the left, a little way below its mid-point, and the adjacent horizontal shading lines. In addition there is some weakness on the ladder ornament alongside due to the removal of the flaw which necessitated the retouch. Unrelated to this variety, the stamp also shows doubling of the flowers and leaves at top right (constant in all printings). The double variety stamp (NV9b) | 60p |
| 902 | <u>1/- Frame Plate 1A, R4/6.</u> A flaw developed in the shading lines immediately above the figure 1 of 1s, and was subsequently removed, the affected area being retouched. The variety is here offered in <u>both states</u> . A nice flaw-and-retouch pair | £2. 75 |
| 903 (a) | <u>1/- Frame Plate 1A, R5/8.</u> (NV10a/b). Copies showing both states as listed and described in our Catalogue. Another excellent example of flaw-and-retouch, the former being scarce | £7. 50 |
| | (b) <u>As above,</u> but the retouched state of R5/8 only | 65p |
| 904 (a) | <u>1/- Frame Plate 1A, R6/7.</u> Two states: (1) small flaw 2 mm above the uppermost star at bottom right, and (2) the flaw removed and the site retouched. Again the flaw state is scarcer. The flaw-and-retouch pair | £5. 00 |
| | (b) <u>As above,</u> but the retouch only | 60p |
| 905 (a) | <u>1/- Frame Plate 1A, R7/2.</u> This stamp was retouched on two separate occasions after the removal of a flaw straddling the inner frame line to the right of the uppermost star. The first retouch was rather crude and some of the original flaw remained. The second retouch was very much a tidying-up operation, the rest of the flaw being removed, and the quality of the retouching improved. The two retouches (NV10e/f) | £3. 25 |
| | (b) <u>As above,</u> but the commoner second retouch only | 90p |

906	<u>1/- Frame Plate 1A, R7/3.</u> Flaw in background at left of flower spray, and the later retouch of this flaw. The pair	£2. 00
907 (a)	<u>1/- Frame Plate 1A, R7/7.</u> A fine set of three, showing the flaw - first retouch - second retouch progression on this impression (NV10h, i and j)	£10. 85
(b)	<u>As above,</u> but a single showing the scarcer first retouch only (NV10i) ...	£6. 75
(c)	<u>As above,</u> the second (final) retouch (NV10j)	£1. 50
908	<u>1/- Frame Plate 1A, R8/9.</u> Again the classical sequence of flaw and retouch, demonstrated in two single copies	£1. 60
909	<u>1/- Frame Plate 1B, R1-4/10.</u> Guaranteed examples of the re-entering which showed as doubling of the right frame line in all four positions. The doubling differs in each case, and the stamps can therefore be accurately assigned to their correct positions. The set of 4 re-entries	£1. 00
910 (a)	<u>1/- Frame Plate 1B, R3/6.</u> Copy showing the small flaws which developed about 1 mm above the point of the uppermost star at bottom right, and another showing the later retouch when the flaws were removed	£2. 25
(b)	<u>As above,</u> but the retouch only (it must be added that the retouch in this case was more prominent than the flaws, so one wonders why it was done at all !)	90p
911	<u>1/- Frame Plate 1B, R4/6.</u> Retouch to shading at lower left, about 3 mm above top of figure 1	90p
912	<u>1/- Frame Plate 1B, R4/8.</u> Right frame line recut near bottom. As this was apparently done before printing of the issued supplies commenced it is, strictly speaking, a "touch-up" rather than a retouch	30p
913 (a)	<u>1/- Frame Plate 1B, R5/2.</u> Set of two stamps, one with the scarce (and crudely executed) first retouch, affecting the W of NEW, and one with the second retouch, by which the shape of the W was considerably improved, and a line of shading above EW was roughly recut. The two variety states (NV10n and o)	£12. 00
(b)	<u>As above.</u> The second retouch NV10(a), <u>in a lovely used block of 4 with three normals</u>	£2. 00
914	<u>1/- Frame Plate 1B, R6/5.</u> Retouch between top star and right frame ...	£1. 35
915	<u>1/- Frame Plate 1B, R7/1.</u> An extensive retouch to the ladder ornament opposite the sleeve at left, and to the adjacent horizontal shading lines. This was the last of all the retouches to the plate	£2. 25
916 (a)	<u>1/- Frame Plate 1B, R8/2.</u> The very short-lived and readily recognisable first retouch. (NV10r). This state is extremely scarce, since the impression was again retouched after a short period.....	£16. 50
(b)	<u>As above.</u> The second (final) retouch. (NV10s)	£2. 25
917	<u>1/- Frame Plate 1B, R8/10.</u> Retouch to spray and inner frame line at top right	50p

918	<u>1/6 Frame Plate 1A, R3/4.</u> (not to be confused with the variety on R3/4 from pane 1B offered as lot 921 below). This copy shows a flaw adjacent to the sleeve at left	90p
919	<u>1/6 Frame Plate 1A, R7/7.</u> The intermediate flaw state with circular white patch in the shading to the left of the Queen's neck	£1. 00
920	<u>1/6 Frame Plate 1A, R8/4.</u> The prominent, rather smudgy flaw in the shading above R of EIIR, offered in two different states, plus the later retouch (2xNV11a, NV11b)	£5. 50
921	<u>1/6 Frame Plate 1B, R3/4.</u> Three copies, showing: (1) The full extent of the flaw above the 6 of I/6; (2) The later state where the flaw has almost disappeared; and (3) the retouch to the top of the 6 and to the adjacent short lines of shading. The set of 3 (NV11d, e and f)	£7. 25
922	<u>1/6 Frame Plate 1B, R4/2.</u> Another first-class example of a flaw (in this case a prominent one above the Z) and subsequent retouch	£3. 50
923	<u>1/6 Frame Plate 1B, R4/9.</u> Flaw-and-retouch yet again (it's turning out to be a real philatelic field-day !). The site of this variety is about 3 mm below the R of EIIR. The two	£3. 50
924 (a)	<u>1/6 Frame Plate 1B, R6/2.</u> The rare first retouch to W of NEW (NV11h)	£13. 75
(b)	As above. The second retouch (NV11j), which considerably improved the shape of the W	£2. 25
	(It is noticeable that the above first retouch, and several others previously mentioned, were uncharacteristically crude efforts. Could it be that they were the work of the apprentice, and that the second retouches, invariably more skilfully done, were the efforts of the journeyman to put matters right on returning from his annual holidays? An intriguing thought !)	
925	<u>1/6 Frame Plate 1B, R7/2.</u> Flaw at left of centre of frond, and later retouch. The two	£3. 50
926	<u>1/9 Frame Plate 1A, R5/10.</u> Magnificent coverage of this variety, with two states of the developing flaw on coarse paper (NV12B), one on thick white paper (NV12b), and the retouch, also on the second paper (NV12d). A fine series	£10. 00

COVERS

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927	<u>1881 Undelivered Registered Cover</u> , from Dunedin to Paris, bearing eight 2d First Sideface adhesives (one badly damaged). Posted on 12th August, and backstamped Paris 24th September - transit time a good deal faster than the average of today! The many markings include the distinctive registered datestamp of Dunedin (Vol. 3, page 208, type 12), and, in French, "Unclaimed" on the reverse and "Returned to Sender" on front. Condition a little tattered but an interesting cover.....	£3. 75
928	<u>Cape of Good Hope Printed Postcard</u> from Mafeking to Dunedin. Obviously from a member of one of the N. Z. Contingents sent to help out in the Boer War, as the message reads "Arrived here yesterday and now having a look at damage done hunking up remnants of shells etc. Are off in a day or two to finish off the Boers". Markings include the Mafeking squared circle	

- cancellation dated AUG 11 1900, and the R. P. O. Dunedin N. datestamp of 17 Sept. 1900. Condition fine. The card £10. 00
- 929 1d Universal First Day Cover. London Print 1d Universal on cover, clearly cancelled Dunedin, Jan 1st 1901. Some age staining but not too bad, and a desirable item at £4. 50
- 930 Fanning Island. Picture postcard depicting "Tug of War" among native children. The adhesives ($\frac{1}{2}$ d Mt Cook and 1d Universal of N. Z.) are cancelled by fine strikes of the first type Fanning Island cds dated Fe 4 06, and there is an additional strike of the postmark well clear of the stamps. A little creasing, but a most attractive card £7. 50
- 931 Otago Infantry Brigade. In 1913 the C. O. of this unit had a special sticker produced to commemorate the first mobilisation of the brigade (see illustration on front page). It had no postal validity, of course, but is here offered on cover with a $\frac{1}{2}$ d K. E. VII, both being tied by the Compulsory Military Training Camp c.d.s. of 11th April 1913. (Incidentally, these training camps were not identified by name in the postmarks, but by serial numbers - this example, with the serial no. 1, obviously applied to the Matarae Camp, near Sutton, which was used by the O. I. B.). By way of a bonus there is enclosed within the cover a "compliments slip" from the brigade's Commanding Officer with an unused example of the sticker attached. The cover has a central fold, well clear of the adhesives. Other-
wise condition is excellent. A scarce item. £15. 00
- 932 Prisoner of War Post. Two printed air letter cards to N. Z. P. O. W. 's. in Europe (one in Italy, one in Germany). The former is the original "1/- POSTAGE" type, the latter is the provisional SIXPENCE on 1/- used for a few months from August 1944 when the rate was reduced. In each case the addressee seems to have "flown" before the cards arrived at the prison camps, since the former is readdressed to an NZ unit in the Middle East, while the card to Germany is endorsed in German manuscript dated 6/9/44 to the effect that the prisoner was repatriated. The two Second World War items, one a little moth-eaten, the other in very good condition, each showing both allied and enemy censor marks £30. 00
- 933 Special Cancellations. 20 covers of the period 1948-1967, all showing different cancellations commemorating notable events, including centennials, philatelic exhibitions, air mail first flights etc, etc, etc. A thoroughly interesting lot of 20 covers £4. 50

FIRST PICTORIAL VARIETIES

- 934 (a) $\frac{1}{2}$ d Mt Cook (Purple). (E1a). Corner block of 4 incl. the plate 2 R10/12 re-entry (the only variety of any consequence on this plate), with doubling in the top, right corner. Mint £2. 25
- (b) As above. Lovely mint copy with brilliant complete offset of design on back. (E1aX). Rare £24. 75
- 935 (a) 1d Lake Taupo (E2a). Another fine offset variety, this time the complete central (blue) part of the design appearing in reverse on the back of the stamp. Mint, and delightful! £20. 00
- (b) As above. A used copy, with the centre partially offset on back £2. 75

936	<u>1d White Terrace (E3a)</u> . Used block of 4 with a magnificent example of the variety double perforations vertically. A crease affecting the upper pair of stamps is invisible from the front, and does not detract in any way from the appearance of the block	£5. 00
937 (a)	<u>1½d Boer War Contingent, perf 11 (E4a)</u> . Mint corner block of 4 (with sheet number), including the quite magnificent re-entry on R2/12 - often, and deservedly, described as N. Z. 's finest - in which virtually the entire design is clearly doubled. Almost incidentally, the block also includes the R1/11 re-entry (in any other setting this itself would be termed 'major'), and the relatively minor re-entry on R1/12. The multi-variety block, superb in every way	£16. 00
(b)	<u>As above, perf 14 (E4b)</u> . Another sheet-number block, matching the above, and showing the three re-entries mentioned. A slight stain affects the bottom left corner of R2/11 (fortunately the only non-variety stamp in the block), but still an attractive and desirable item	£11. 85
(c)	<u>As above</u> . Two mint singles, one in each perf, showing the big R2/12 re-entry (perf 11) and the R1/11 re-entry (perf 14). The two varieties	£12. 00
938	<u>2d Pembroke Peak London Print (E5a)</u> . An unused pair (no gum), the left stamp being the Plate 1, R5/2 re-entry, with extensive doubling around and in the oval containing 'NEW ZEALAND POSTAGE & REVENUE'. Also a used copy of the R10/12 re-entry from the same plate. The pair and single	£3. 00
939	<u>2½d Lake Wakitipu (E7a)</u> . A fine well-centred mint copy, being the catalogued R11/9 re-entry - again the only notable variety on this, the "error of spelling" stamp	£3. 50
940 (a)	<u>3d Huia, London Print (E9a)</u> . The R5/9 re-entry, as listed and illustrated in the C. P. Catalogue. Mint.	£2. 70
(b)	<u>As above</u> . No less than six of the re-entries as listed in Volume 1 of the Handbooks, being R4/3 (in pair with normal), R5/6, R5/9, R5/12, R6/12 and R10/7 (in pair with normal). Four singles and two pairs, all mint and all the makings of a fascinating page	£10. 75
941 (a)	<u>4d White Terrace (E11a)</u> . A superb display of re-entries to be found on this value. Included are R1/10 (in pair with normal), R8/8 (in block of 4) and R2/9 (single) - all three of these being really major varieties -, and the lesser but still good re-entries on R10/9 and R10/11 (these two being in a corner strip of 4) and R6/6 (single). The R2/9 stamp has a very slight surface rub, and is not reckoned in the price. Otherwise condition is super-fine mint. In addition to the varieties, the individual items are representative of the superb range of shades for which the 4d is noted. In all, 12 stamps as described	£20. 00
(b)	<u>As above</u> . Used single examples of the R2/5 and R2/9 re-entries. The two used varieties	£3. 45
942	<u>4d Lake Taupo, perf 11, unwmk'd paper (E12a)</u> . Mint block of 4 including the re-entry at R8/10, and a mint single being the R1/3 re-entry. The two catalogued varieties	£6. 45

- 943 (a) 5d Otira Gorge, London Print (E13a). A good, well-centred unused copy in the scarce sepia shade, and showing the R6/9 re-entry, with doubling mainly in the letters N of NEW and ELN of ZEALAND - surely a considerable rarity in this shade. Condition could be better, but a very presentable looking stamp, and a gift at £5. 00
- (b) As above. An excellent used copy of the R5/11 re-entry, in the more usual chocolate shade £2. 25
- 944 6d Kiwi (Red), perf 11, no wmk (E14c). Fine mint horizontal pair with the major variety imperf vertically. £27. 00
- 945 6d Kiwi, "Lisbon" paper (E14d). A brilliant, well-centred mint block of 14, the outstanding feature of which is that it includes the complete "LISBON/SUPERFINE" watermark which occurred only once in each sheet of this provisional paper. Considering that the watermark not infrequently was so placed that it appeared partly on either side of a sheet, and that the total printing was 2,729 sheets, it is safe to state that few if any similar blocks can exist. The rare block, an exhibition item £165. 00
- 946 8d Canoe, perf 11, unwmk'd paper (E16b). Mint copy with the R10/6 re-entry £2. 00
- 947 (a) 9d Pink Terrace, London Print (E17a). Vertical pair, both stamps showing re-entries. The upper stamp is R6/7 (a minor re-entry), and the lower is R7/7 (a major one). The double-variety pair, very fine mint £6. 75
- (b) As above. Mint single from R1/5 in the sheet, showing the magnificent re-entry to that impression, with very extensive doubling in the left hand third of the stamp £6. 50
- (c) As above. Re-entry at R10/2, in horizontal pair with normal. Mint..... £5. 75
- 948 (a) 1/- Kea and Kaka, London Print (E18a). Three different re-entries (two singles and one, R8/9, in pair with another variety stamp R9/9). As in the 4d lot 941a, there is a fine range of shades evident in the three items included. 4 stamps, all mint £13. 75
- (b) As above, perf 11, wmk'd paper (E18d). The catalogued variety, imperf at top, with selvage. Fine used £1. 35
- 949 (a) 2/- Milford Sound, London Print (E20a). Fine mint copy with the major variety complete offset on back. Spectacular ! £33. 75
- (b) As above, perf 11, unwmk'd paper, (E20b). Mint copy of the R4/6 re-entry, fully described £6. 75
- 950 6d Kiwi Official, perf 14 (E014g). First class mint marginal pair with the very scarce variety imperf vertically £33. 75
- 951 2/- Milford Sound Official (E020e). Two copies, each showing re-entries, being R6/10 (major doubling) and R9/9 (minor). The two varieties, mint .. £8. 25

MAGNIFICENT MISCELLANY

A selection of unusual material.

- 952 (a) First Sidefaces. Set of 5 plate proofs in unissued colours, overprinted CANCELLED in black. Comprising 1d brown-red, 2d blue, 3d mauve-lilac, 4d claret and 6d brown, all printed on thick white unwatermarked paper, and imperf. Delightful as an introduction to your collection of Sidefaces, or as an addition to your proof material, or simply to stand alone! The set of 5 £15. 00
- (b) As above. Unused copies of the 3d and 4d overprinted SPECIMEN in red (for inclusion in presentation sets). The two £10. 00
- (c) As above. Very fine used copy of the 1d Lilac, perf 12½ (C1a) with double perfs at right £6. 75
- 953 (a) ½d Mt Cook. Imperf plate proof in corner block of 4, printed in the colour of the issued ½d of the 1898 Pictorial set, but in the slightly amended design of the ½d Green Mt Cook £6. 75
- (b) As above. The scarce variety imperf vertically in mint horizontal pair on Cowan wmk'd paper, perf 14, from the original plates (F4bZ) £25. 00
- 954 1d Universal. Mint copy from the Reserve Plate with mixed perfs (G6d), in this case perf 11 at foot, 14 on the other three sides. Like all "Reserve Plates" other than perf 14 all round, this is an extremely rare stamp (current Cat. over £80). The copy offered is fine fresh mint, but the perfs at the top are rather ragged, hence our gift price £20. 00
- Note: For the fastidious collector we have one top grade mint copy available, price £75. 00
- 955 King George V ½d, Cowan Paper, perf 14 (K13f). Horizontal pair with bottom selvedge, and with comb perfs massively misplaced upwards (by fully 6mm) leaving the bottom quarter of the stamp completely imperf, and a horizontal row of perforations cutting through both stamps at the level of the base of the King's neck. That "different" variety you've been seeking. The pair £3. 50
- 956 1960 Pictorial 4d. Vertical strip of 3 from the top of a sheet, the top two stamps both being the major error "plus colour omitted", while the bottom stamp shows a partial omission, only the lowest flower having its normal dark centre. A rare strip, commercially used £27. 00
- 957 1967 Pictorial 3c. A complete, unbroken counter roll of 400 stamps, with all section nos 1-19, and wrapper and centre paper attached. All stamps being from vertical row 9, the joins all show the sheet value marking. The complete counter roll £13. 50
- 958 1970 Pictorial Booklet Panes. Complete set of 4 panes, comprising 1c, 3c and 4c in panes of 6, plus a 1c pane of 3 stamps plus 3 labels. The set of 4 panes 71p
- 959 (a) 1970 Pictorial Booklet Variety. Mint 3c pane from a 75c booklet, with the watermark inverted (i.e. with wmk W8a, since the normal has the wmk sideways inverted). Scarce. £13. 50
- (b) As above. Single 3c stamp from booklet, with wmk W8a. Mint £3. 25