

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



PUBLISHED BY CAMPBELL PATERSON LTD.

P.O. BOX 17, WOKING, SURREY, GU22 7BL

ISSUED MONTHLY.

☎ WOKING 5887

All lots offered on approval subject to being unsold.

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VOLUME XII

NUMBER 4

NOVEMBER 1974

TWO OF A KIND

by Colin Hamilton

I wonder how many of our regular readers will recall the following item, from the Bulletin of May, 1971:

"In the New Zealand Newsletter Vol. 4, No. 2, dated September 1952, there was a report by Mr. Paterson of his having been shown a most interesting copy of the 6d Victory stamp of 1920. Interesting in that it had what would have been an extensive and prominent white flaw affecting the letters NUE of REVENUE, but the flaw had been rather crudely "retouched", not on the plate, but on the stamp itself. In fact Mr. Paterson's opinion expressed at the time was that this was in all probability not a plate flaw at all, but simply an isolated case of the ink flaking off or not "taking" on the chalky surface of the paper.

"The reason for recounting this little snippet from well-nigh twenty years ago is that recently I saw in an auction lot a 6d Victory displaying all the characteristics described. As previously, the "retouching", although crude, was in ink precisely matching the shade of the printing ink, and had apparently been executed with a pen or a fine brush.

"It is of course remotely possible that the 3,000,000 - 1 chance came up, and that it was the self-same copy I saw, having in the meanwhile found its way to the other side of the globe. I think it significant, however, that the stamp I saw was unaccompanied by write-up of any kind - it was mounted anonymously among half a dozen others. Had it been the copy described in 1952, it would surely not be unreasonable to expect that the story would have been alongside it."

That note elicited not a single report of a similar example; neither did my own subsequent scrutiny of hundreds, if not thousands, of 6d's produce any corroborating evidence of either flaw or "retouch", so I had long since concluded that no further progress was likely.

So it is just one more example of the glorious unpredictability of philately that I can now - three and a half years later - record seeing another "retouched" copy. Like the previous one, this copy too came from a non-specialist source, although on this occasion the owner had noted the abnormality, which was described as a "frame break".

By a strange coincidence, I happened to have the "1971" stamp at hand - on loan from its present owner - so I was able to make a direct comparison. The underlying large flaw was undoubtedly

the same on both copies. The ink used in the efforts to touch out the flaws appeared identical; on the other hand the retouching itself differed slightly in form (precisely as one would expect of individually executed repairs). Equally importantly, in my view, the stamps were in distinctly different shades, thus strongly suggesting that the flaw persisted over at least parts of two separate printings.

Having definitely established the variety as something more than a "one-off" freak, I would be surprised if there aren't, somewhere, other examples waiting to be recognised - perhaps even a few in the flaw state? One thing is certain, I will continue to cast a special eye over all the 6d Victories which come my way! Will you?

THE WATERMARKS OF THE 1971 BOOKLET STAMPS by Colin Hamilton

Although our own Catalogue listings are fully detailed, some other catalogues list stamps from the 75c booklet (1c, 3c and 4c values) as merely having the watermark sideways. This information by itself is not sufficient, and has led to confusion in the minds of some collectors. I hope this note will clarify the position.

The booklet stamps of 1971 do indeed have the watermark sideways, as distinct from the same values on issue simultaneously in sheet form, which have the watermark upright. BUT - and this is where the confusion arises - in all three values from booklets the watermark is normally found in what is usually referred to as the "sideways inverted" form, that is with the NZ to the left of the star when the stamp is viewed from the back in an upright position. Thus the normal watermark in these stamps is W8b as illustrated on Permanent Page X of our Catalogue.

To complicate matters still more, inverted watermark varieties are known on all three values. It follows from the above that these varieties (none of which, incidentally, is at all common), have the NZ to the right of the star, again when the stamp is viewed from the back in an upright position. Thus the inverted watermark variety in these stamps is W8a in our Catalogue.

There have been previous instances of this sideways watermark topsy-turviness, where the normal is "inverted" and the inverted variety is "normal" - the 4d Lamb of 1957 and the 4d I. C. Y. of 1965 are two.

Since the above was written, the 75c booklet has appeared with the stamps printed on unwatermarked paper. The make-up of these new booklets is exactly as before, although there have been various alterations made to the advertisements on the interleaving and on the back cover (two - "Don't Drop Litter" and "Weet-Bix" - have been replaced by "Stuck for a different gift or souvenir idea?" and "Bonus Bonds" respectively; two others - "Reliance Tyre Specialists" and "The Linguaphone Institute Pty Ltd" - have had the wording changed; the remainder are unaltered). Another difference is in the pane of air mail labels, these being of a new design.

In those unwatermarked booklets I have seen to date, the vast majority of the plating characteristics, noted by Messrs. J. Shaw and C. Capill in their 1973 study of the booklet plates, are still in evidence. A notable exception occurs, however, in the "three-stamp" pane of the 1c. In this case, none of the blue flaws referred to in the Shaw/Capill study appears to be present on unwatermarked panes known to be from the particular positions on the plate in which blue flaws were previously in evidence. Does this indicate that a new blue plate is now in use for the three-stamp panes? Or merely that the original plate has been cleaned up?

Finally, the gum provides further evidence (if that be needed!) of the experiments - or problems? - which have affected Harrison-printed stamps lately. These new booklet stamps have a white distinctly glossy gum, more like the old gum arabic than any of the PVA's of recent years. It will scarcely come as a surprise that here, too, there is an exception - in some booklets seen

the three-stamp 1c pane has the white glossy gum described, in others this pane has the recent bluish gum ! No doubt the story is far from complete yet.

BEAUTIFUL CHALON HEAD ITEMS

Prints from a series of special dies laid down by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. from the original transfer roller used to lay down the plate for the 1/- value of 1855. (See Volume 4 of "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand", pp. 368-369). The items offered all have the superb definition of detail that only die proofs can have; the colours are delightful.

1101	Value tablet with three horizontal wavy lines, middle one thick, three half moons above and two below. Die proof in black on small piece white wove unwatermarked paper (27 x 34mm approx.)	£10. 50
1102 (a)	Value tablet with three horizontal straight lines. Die proof in black, centrally printed on large piece (130 x 95mm approx.) white wove unwatermarked paper	£17. 50
(b)	Details as above, but die proof printed in myrtle-green	£20. 00
(c)	Details as above, but die proof printed in bright blue	£20. 00
(d)	Details as above, but die proof printed in carmine-red	£20. 00
1103 (a)	Value tablet as lot 1102 (a), but on paper watermarked with broad six-pointed star. Die proof in deep dull red (unrecorded in Vol. 4), on piece 30 x 40mm. approx.	£17. 50
(b)	As above, but die proof printed in myrtle-green on larger piece (38 x 68mm approx.)	£17. 50
1104 (a)	Value tablet blank. Die proof in black on large piece (120 x 68mm approx.) white wove unwatermarked paper	£17. 50
(b)	As above, but die proof in bright carmine-pink on smaller piece (37 x 39mm approx.)	£17. 50
(c)	As above, but die proof printed in yellow-green on small piece (35 x 40mm approx.)	£17. 50

1875 - 1974 MISCELLANY

1105 (a)	<u>$\frac{1}{2}$d Newspaper Stamp.</u> A quite remarkable display of the perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$, "Small Star" wmk issue of this stamp (B2a) in no less than 20 (yes, twenty!) distinct shades ranging from the deepest dullest rose to the brightest of bright. The makings of a real rose rainbow of a page. The 20 shades, all selected used copies	£5. 00
(b)	As above. An even more remarkable collection of 24 shades on the final issue with wmk NZ and star (B3a). In addition there are 6 copies with wmk "letters", all different, these too showing a marked variation of shade. Last but by no means least, there is a copy with a complete extra row of vertical perforations at the left, thus being the variety "Double perfs". This last stamp is mint, the other 30 are all selected used. A "one-stamp" collection out of the very top drawer	£10. 00
1106	<u>$1\frac{1}{2}$d Boer War Contingent.</u> Fine, well centred mint block of 4, perf.14 (E4b)	£1. 85

- 1107 9d Pink Terrace. Another lovely block of 4, perf. 14 (E17d). Seldom seen nowadays in this very fine fresh mint condition. The block £7. 00
- 1108 1d Dominion. Cover bearing a single copy from a booklet pane - but not from any "ordinary" pane, this. The words "STICK TO" printed on the attached selvage prove it to be from the rare one with "BIG TREE" advertisement. Stamps recognisable as being from "BIG TREE" panes are seldom seen in any form. Used on cover - a connoisseur's item ! (The 1926 c.d.s. is of Tisbury, incidentally - this office closed in 1946.) The cover £10. 00
- 1109 K. G. V. RECESS PRINTS - PLATE NUMBERS.
- (a) 1½d Grey, Pictorial Paper, perf. 14 x 13¼ (K1d). Corner pair with plate number 14 in top selvage virtually complete (very scarce thus). One stamp in the pair has no watermark. The "plate pair", mint £12. 50
- (b) 2d Violet, perf. 14 x 13¼ (K2a). Plate block of 4 with plate no. 16. Superfine mint £7. 75
- (c) 4½d Deep Green, perf. 14 x 13¼ (K6a). Corner pair with plate no. 21, again superfine mint £8. 25
- (d) 6d Carmine, perf. 14 x 13¼ (K8a). Top left corner block of 4 on esparto paper, with plate no. 37. The plate block, mint £9. 25
- (e) 7½d Deep Red Brown, perf. 14 x 13¼ (K9a). Corner pair as above, but with plate no. 24 £4. 10
- (f) 1/- Orange-vermilion, perf. 14 x 14¼ (K12b). Mint corner pair with plate no. 41 £9. 25
- (g) As above. Similar in all respects to lot (f), but a corner single with plate number £7. 45
- (h) As above. Plate block of 4 (no side selvage), again plate 41, but the shade is distinctly less orange and more vermilion when compared to either lot (f) or (g) above. The plate block, mint £15. 50
- (i) As above. Another 1/- block, this one with plate no. 42, and in the much scarcer pale, soft salmon shade. The mint block £31. 00
- 1110 K. G. V. 4d Deep Purple. The rare variety "vertical pair, partly imperf". (K5gZ), in which the lower stamp is perforated at the sides and bottom, while the top stamp is perforated at the top only (the result of one complete strike of the comb head being completely omitted). Fine mint, and an item to raise the standard of any George V collection..... £123. 50
- 1111 (a) K. G. V. - Surface Prints. A superb collection of 53 mint stamps. All values to 3d are well represented, with many different paper and shade varieties. Included are ½d (21), 1d (4), 1½d black (4), 1½d brown (4), 2d (15, one of which is the surfaced on wrong side, Cowan paper) and 3d (5, one copy being the "flaw on face" variety). An impressive "starter" collection of these issues £27. 50
- (b) As above. A collection of 62 used stamps, with many shades, comprising ½d (24), 1d (6), 1½d black (5), 1½d brown (3), 2d (15, including one surfaced

- on wrong side, Cowan paper) and 3d (9, one being the "flaw on face" variety). An attractive collection, ideal for expansion £19. 00
- (c) As above. A superb unmounted mint block of four of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d Experimental paper (K13b). All the "trade marks" of this scarce issue are easily seen the De La Rue-type watermark on a Cowan paper, together with the thick "crinkly" colourless gum. The block, superfine £7. 40
- 1112 Second Pictorials. The complete set as originally issued on 1st May, 1935. $\frac{1}{2}$ d - 3/-, one of each value, all with single ("Registered") watermark and in their initial perforations. The set of 14 mint stamps (L1a - L14a) ... £9. 00
- 1113 (a) $\frac{1}{2}$ d Fantail, mult. wmk. (L1b). Plate block of 9 from the original plate 1A (with small letters), including the R8/1 "Clematis" flaw, and the R8/3 "value" flaw. The double-variety plate block (L1bT), mint £6. 15
- (b) As above. The "Clematis" flaw on R8/1 (L1bV), in pair with normal, mint £3. 70
- (c) As above. Plate block of 12 from the unnumbered plate, with the R8/3 flaw (note that although this flaw too occurs in the value tablet, it has no connection at all with the R8/3 flaw on the original plate 1A). The unnumbered plate block, mint £3. 70
- (d) As above. Mint block of 4, one stamp showing the prominent flaw which occurred on R2/21 (unnumbered plate). The variety block £1. 85
- 1114 (a) 1954 Q. E. 1d Small Figures. Mint positional block of 24 (from upper left corner of sheet) including the fine example of the art of retouching on R4/6 from plate 5. As listed in our Catalogue (NV2a), but seldom seen in a positional block £5. 75
- (b) 1954 Q. E. 2d Small Figures. Plate block of 6 from plate 17, with clear evidence, in the bottom selvedge, of the massive crack which developed on this plate. Supplied with a matching plate block from the pre-crack state for comparison. The two plate blocks £7. 75
- (c) 1954 Q. E. 3d Vermilion. Vertical strip of 3 stamps with inverted watermark - thus proving that these are the scarce sheet-stamp 'inverts' (N5aZ), not the common variety found in booklets. The 'proving' piece ... £12. 25
- 1115 4c Puriri Moth, Unwatermarked Paper. The "Veinless Wings" variety (bright green colour completely omitted). If you missed this one when we offered it previously, now is your opportunity, but we only have a handful of copies left. Supplied as a set of 3 stamps - one with the colour totally omitted, one partially omitted, and one normal. The set £4. 25
- 1116 (a) 10c Coat of Arms. A magnificent specialised collection of this value which, with its variations of watermark, paper, perforations, gum, and its plate flaws and retouches has become (with the 4c and the 4c on $2\frac{1}{2}$ c provisional) one of the most interesting and rewarding stamps in the current definitive series. Included are:
- (i) On the original watermarked paper - plate blocks with wmk normal (W8a) and wmk inverted (W8b), plus blocks showing the flaw states of R1/2, 1/3 and R6/5, plus blocks showing all these flaws retouched (the R1/2, 1/3 retouch block also

has the wmk inverted !).

- (ii) On unwatermarked paper, gum as before. Plate block, plus blocks showing all three retouches mentioned in (i) above.
- (iii) Paper and gum as (ii). Blocks as above, but printed from a new dark blue plate, so that R1/2 and 1/3 have neither the flaws nor the retouches which appeared on all previous printings.
- (iv) On unwatermarked paper, bluish gum. Two blocks, one again showing the absence of either flaws or retouches on R1/2 and 1/3, the other being a plate block, with the light blue and the red plate numbers clearly retouched (in all previous printings these numbers are weak and incomplete).

The unrepeatable collection of 14 blocks (94 stamps), all mint £31. 00

- (b) As above. A mint copy of the latest issue (unwatermarked paper, bluish gum) with the major error Red Colour Omitted. (only one sheet - 100 copies - was found). A lovely item, offered with a normal for comparison £35. 00

1117 (a) 50c Tasman Park. Mint single of the later (white paper) printing with a massive shift upwards (3mm) of the yellow-green colour, resulting in the headland at right being behind the upper branches of the tree ! Spectacular £12. 50

- (b) As above. The same variety but this copy is the bottom left corner copy from the sheet, so that in addition to the "Flying Headland", it shows the yellow-green plate number jumping very much out of line ! £15. 00

1118 1913 Auckland Exhibition ½d. Magnificent used block of 6 (c. d. s. 16 MR 19). Rare thus, and an exhibition "Exhibition" item, so to speak ! £27. 50

BOOKLETS BONANZA !

1119 1935 1d Kiwi. 2/- booklet of the special booklet issue stamps (L2c), consisting of 4 panes of 6 stamps each - all with "Parisian Ties" ads. in selvages - and complete with all interleaving, etc. In superfine condition. The booklet £16. 00

1120 K. G. VI 2/3 Booklet. The issue of 1938, with three panes of the 1½d chocolate (M4a) - in this case all have wmk inverted. The complete booklet, fine and very scarce £16. 00

1121 Q. E. 4/- Booklet. The original issue of 1954, without air mail labels and with "BP Energol" ad. on back cover. Includes 2 panes of the small figure 1d (N2a) and 2 panes of the small figure 3d (N5a). These booklets exist with many combinations of upright and inverted watermarks - in our offer, both 1d panes have wmk inv., both 3d panes have wmk upr. The booklet £1. 85

1122 (a) Q. E. Booklet Pane. Small figure 1d, wmk upright. Pane of 6, mint .. 37p

- (b) As above. Small figure 1d, wmk inverted. Pane of 6, mint 47p

- (c) As above. Small figure 3d (N5a), wmk upright. Pane of 6, mint 47p
- (d) As above. Small figure 3d (N5a), wmk inverted. Pane of 6, mint 62p
- 1123 (a) 1960 Pictorial Booklet Pane. 3d Kowhai (O5a), pane of 6 stitched, with numeral in selvedge, mint 31p
- (b) As above, but very fine used. Scarce thus 45p
- 1124 (a) 1971 75c Booklet, Watermarked. Complete booklet, with all panes and interleaving. Now obsolete 93p

- (b) As above. Complete booklet, with one 4c pane having, on R2/1 the large white flaw on the leading edge of the moth's upper wing, and the other 4c pane having this flaw retouched. A unique and delightful combination of flaw and retouch £17. 50

- 1125 (a) 1971 Booklet Pane, Watermarked. 1c, pane of 6 stamps, mint 14p
- (b) As above. 1c, pane of 3 stamps and 3 labels, mint 10p
- (c) As above. 3c, pane of 6 stamps, mint 20p
- (d) As above. 4c, pane of 6 stamps, mint 27p
- (e) As above. Complete 4c pane, finest used 32p
- 1126 1974 75c Booklet, Unwatermarked. Complete booklet, with all panes and interleaving 72p
- 1127 (a) 1974 75c Booklet Pane, Unwatermarked. 1c, pane of 6 stamps, mint .. 13p
- (b) As above. 1c, pane of 3 stamps and 3 labels, mint 9p
- (c) As above. 3c, pane of 6 stamps, mint 19p
- (d) As above. 4c, pane of 6 stamps, mint 25p
- 128 Complete Plating Reconstruction. A complete reconstruction of all four sets of plates used to print the booklet stamps. 25 panes each of the 6 x 1c, 3 x 1c, 6 x 3c and 6 x 4c, (all on unwatermarked paper) each set marked 1 - 25 by reference to the numbering set out in the Shaw/Capill study. 100 booklet panes in all. A wonderful piece of philatelic detective work. The complete re-plating £57. 50

1129 AN ATTRACTIVE INNOVATION

Set of 5 postcards, delightfully presented in full colour, depicting the beautiful N. Z. Lakes set issued in 1972. This is the first of a series to be produced by the N. Z. P. O., and the cards are to be individually numbered - in this case Post Card Series 1, Cards 1 - 5 respectively. Nos. 1 - 4 feature enlarged reproductions of the four values in ascending order, and card 5 shows all four. Superb in their own right - or magnificent "write up" material. Order your set now, and ensure that you are on the way to completion. The set of five cards as described (post paid) 60p

OFFICIALS

- 1130 Early Officials. A pre-1927 collection of used Official stamps, containing First Pictorials to 1/-, $\frac{1}{2}$ d Mount Cooks, 1d Universals, Edward VII, 1d Dominions and Long Fiscals - in total 29 stamps and an absolute bargain at £20. 00
- 1131 (a) K. G. V. Recess Print Officials. A marvellous collection of 21 mint stamps, with 3d (8, including worn plate examples and a no wmk variety on Pictorial Paper), 4d (3), 6d (5), 8d (1), 9d (1) and 1/- (3).
A superb set £23. 50
- (b) K. G. V. Surface Print Officials. All values $\frac{1}{2}$ d - 3d are highlighted here including many shades. $\frac{1}{2}$ d (4), 1d (3, 2 being "no stop" varieties in differing shades), 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d black (3), 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d brown (2), 2d (2) and 3d (3, one copy being the variety "flaw on face"). 17 mint stamps, the basis of a fine collection £5. 00
- (c) As above. Companion to the above collection, this set contains 31 used stamps of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d - 3d values. Many more papers and shades are included and the collection is near to completion. An excellent lot for .. £3. 00
- 1132 Second Pictorial Officials. One of New Zealand's most popular issues is represented here by 34 mint Official stamps in tip-top condition. All values are represented, as are numerous examples of shades, paper, perforation, and both watermarks. A collection of the finest quality £14. 50

RECENT ISSUES

2/10/74 1974 Christmas 3c, 5c, 10c.

	Set of 3 mint	18p
	Imprint/plate blocks. Complete set of 3 blocks (of 4 stamps each)	80p
	Official First Day Cover, Wellington postmark	22p
No fixed date of issue	<u>3c Moth.</u> On unwatermarked paper, gum as before, printed from new plate combination.	
	Mint single (blocks pro rata)	3p
	Imprint/plate blocks of 10 stamps, plates 2A2A1A or 2B2B1B, each ...	32p
	<u>8c Fish.</u> On unwatermarked paper, with bluish gum.	
	Mint single (blocks pro rata)	8p
	Imprint/plate blocks of 10 stamps, plates 1A1A1A1A1A or 1B1B1B1B1B, each	75p
	<u>5c Fish.</u> Counter coil pair, paper and wmk as previously, but with coil section number sideways reading <u>downwards</u> (listed in our Catalogue as PC7b)	37p