

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N. Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

An unusual find

We recently acquired an extraordinary group of postal stationery envelopes, the like of which we have never before seen. They were doubly printed, in that each had an impression of an unembossed stamp - printed from a stereo - in the normal position in the top right corner of the envelope, and a second (inverted) impression in the bottom left corner. Curious enough in itself, but that was by no means the limit of their interest to us.

Firstly, the imprinted stamps were of two different denominations - $2\frac{1}{2}$ c and 3c - and the find included envelopes showing all possible combinations of these two values. Thus there were four distinct types: (i) with ' $2\frac{1}{2}$ c' stamps at both top right and bottom left; (ii) with ' $2\frac{1}{2}$ c' at top right and '3c' at bottom left; (iii) with '3c' at top right and ' $2\frac{1}{2}$ c' at bottom left; (iv) with '3c' at both top right and bottom left.

Both of these denominations are obsolete as far as postal stationery is concerned - and in any case no stationery envelope was ever issued bearing a $2\frac{1}{2}$ c printed stamp (this value was confined to postal stationery postcards).

Secondly, the envelopes concerned were of a new design - in every way identical to those first used for the recently-issued 8c envelope. The obvious inference to be drawn is that these "doubly-printed" items are of recent origin.

Thirdly, and perhaps most significant of all, was the range of shades in which the stamps were printed. Although these shades were numerous (in some cases the differences were of intensity only, in others the composition of the ink was clearly different), all fell within the narrow band bounded by carmine on the one hand and claret on the other, with individual hues varying from bright to dull, and from pale to deep. The only recent issued postal stationery envelope with the stamp printed in a colour at all resembling this range is the above-mentioned 8c item.

Taking all of these factors into account, I believe the items under discussion to be colour trials of the 8c. It would be perfectly reasonable to make use of old stereotypes for this purpose, the actual values being of no consequence; it would be perfectly logical to use the actual envelopes intended for issue, to obtain a true idea of the finished work; and finally it would be equally logical to re-use the envelopes (by turning them upside-down), to avoid undue wastage of stationery.

In any event, these items strike me as a delightfully unusual adjunct to a collection, whether one's prime concern is with postal stationery or not. Interested readers will find them offered - individually and in a set showing the four types described - elsewhere in this issue.

Early Air Mail Cover.

Any student or collector of NZ air mail material will confirm how scarce are any of the markings illustrated on page 479 of Volume 4 of "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand". So it is quite an event when one finds an example of one of these, especially when it adds to the record in Volume 4.

We recently saw such a cover, bearing a superb strike in violet-purple of the smaller "SEAPLANE MAIL" marking (type 54). The cover was addressed to "Messrs Collins Bros, Wyndham St., Auckland" (no connection, as far as we know, with the co-editor of Volume 4), franked with a K.G. V 1½d orange-brown adhesive, and postmarked DARGAVILLE, 8 MR 20. The handbook records only two covers with this particular marking; from the details given, this is clearly neither of those mentioned. In addition to the superlative quality of the marking, the cover itself (although of rather frail paper) was clean and fresh. A rare and most attractive item !

PENNY UNIVERSALS

Breaking a very fine collection. At present the collection is beautifully set out and written up on "Oriol" tissue-backed leaves, and wherever possible, we shall supply lots on these pages. All stamps are mint, except where specifically stated otherwise.

- 601 First Day Souvenir Card. The printed postcard issued by the then Postmaster-General (the Hon. Sir Joseph Ward) and sent to various dignitaries - this one is addressed to The Most Hon. Marquess of Londonderry. The specially printed frank stamp is cancelled by a superb strike of the Wellington c.d.s. dated O.O. am 1 JA 01. The card is rather dog-eared around the edges, but otherwise clean and fresh. The first-day card £12. 50
- 602 (a) London Prints (Gla). A magnificent page, with a plain first day cover (Glenary c.d.s.) and 15 mint stamps, incl. a strip of three and 3 pairs. Various perfs. from 13½ to 16 are represented, and the range of shades is quite remarkable for an issue not specially noted for graduations of colour. Two of the stamps show doubling in the upper left corner - re-entries not recorded in the Handbook. The fine page of 'Londons' £27. 50
- (b) As above. Another equally superb page, with 3 blocks of 4, a strip of four, three pairs and three singles (one has evidence of a re-entry similar to those in the previous lot). Again there is considerable variation of both shade and gauge of perforation, and condition is superfine throughout. The page of 25 stamps £18. 50
- (c) As above. Top marginal block of 12 in a stunningly bright shade; two of the stamps are perf. 13 x 14, two are perf. 14 all round, and the remaining eight are perf. 13½ x 14. The block is notable for the evidence of vertical guide lines, which were inscribed on the plate to assist in the accurate positioning of the impressions. There is a considerable area of thinning high in the selvage, but this is some ¾" distant from the nearest stamps, which are all brilliant unmounted. The large and lovely block £8. 50
- (d) As above. Superfine block of 6; block of 4; pair; single. No special characteristics - just all the makings of an attractive and desirable page .. £8. 00
- 603 (a) London Plate Re-entry. R8/11 in unhinged block of 6 £7. 25

- 603 (b) As above. Magnificent block of 4 including R6/7 and 7/7 (the latter is a really major re-entry, and one of the best to be found on this plate). The double variety block £9. 50
- (c) As above. R7/7 and 8/11, each in pair with a normal stamp. The two re-entry pairs £9. 25
- (d) As above. Two single re-entry stamps, being R6/12 and 7/7 £8. 00
- (e) As above. Another superb block of 4, one stamp being R10/12. In addition to the doubling of the design, this stamp and R9/12 immediately above it both have a vertical guide line at left which is also clearly doubled. The block £7. 50
- 604 (a) Local Prints, Pirie Paper, Perf. 11 (G2a). Four brilliant shades - bright carmine, deep carmine, carmine-lake and a rich deep carmine-lake - all in fine mint blocks of 4. A rare and unrepeatable opportunity, the four shade blocks £62. 50
- (b) As above. The same four superb shades, but in singles. Superfine £17. 25
- (c) As above. Block of 4, in deep carmine. Superb in every way £1. 50
- (d) As above. Strip of 3, a pair and a single - all in contrasting shades of carmine. Lovely : £2. 20
- (e) As above. A beautiful mint copy in carmine-lake (C. P. shade 3) £4. 50
- (f) As above. Volume 1 of the Handbook states categorically that no instances of retouching are to be found on stamps from any of the first three local Plates. But the block of 4 here offered (beautifully centred, and in a delicate pale carmine) includes one stamp with the pearl at the extreme top left corner completely and clearly redrawn. We have several examples; and one (to be offered in next month's Bulletin) proves the position to be R9/21 on plate 1. The variety block £3. 75
- (g) As above. An exactly similar block, showing the R9/21 retouch, but in a gloriously rich carmine-lake £22. 50
- (h) As above. Another delightful block in carmine-lake, being rows 5-6, stamps 23-24, with full right selvedge, which carries the central arrow marking and a spectacular impression of the head of the large screw used to secure the plate in position for printing. (The stamps incidentally are demonstrably from plate 2, having neither the characteristic plate 3 dot, nor the 'London' dot which would be present on plate 1 stamps from this position). The most attractive block £22. 50
- (i) As above. A pair of the rare variety imperf. vertically (G2aX), superfine £36. 00
(to be continued next month)

CHRISTMAS ISSUES

A recently replenished stock of these most attractive stamps enables the following lots to be offered. All are available in limited quantities, so early ordering is recommended.

- 605 1960. Imprint/plate block of six stamps, and a corner block of 4 with value marking "VALUE 10s". The two mint blocks £6. 25

606	(a)	1961. Three mint blocks, includes both imprint/plate blocks (plate nos. 1Ax4 and 1Bx4) and a corner block of 4 with sheet value marking "VALUE 12s 6d". The 3 blocks (16 stamps) mint	£5. 70
	(b)	As above. The two imprint/plate blocks (plate nos 1Ax4 and 1Bx4) of 6 stamps each, mint	£4. 20
607	(a)	1962. Once again three mint blocks, being exactly the same composition as for lot 602 (a) above, but this time for the 1962 issue.	£4. 00
	(b)	As above. Imprint/plate block of 6, with plate nos. 1Bx4	£1. 50
	(c)	As above. Corner block of 4 with sheet value marking "VALUE 12s 6d" ..	£1. 00
608	(a)	1964. Imprint/plate block of 6 and corner block of 4 with sheet value marking "VALUE 12s 3d"	90p
	(b)	As above, but corner block of 4 with sheet value marking	40p
609		1966. Corner block of 6 with sheet value marking "VALUE 15s. 0d", and sheet serial number	50p
610		1967. Two different corner blocks of 4, both with sheet value marking "VALUE \$1. 25"	£1. 00
611		1968. Two Imprint/plate blocks, of 10 stamps each (i. e. the last two horizontal rows from a sheet) with plate nos. 1Ax4 and 1Bx4	£1. 50
612		1969 wmk'd. A plate block of 6 stamps (plate nos. "as they come"), and an imprint block of 6. The two mint blocks	85p
613		1969 unwmk'd. Plate block of 6 stamps, plate nos. "as they come"	42p
614		1971. Complete set of four mint imprint/plate blocks, includes two 3c blocks (plate nos. 1Ax4 and 1Bx4) and one block each for the 4c and 10c values	£3. 10
615	(a)	1972. Set of 3 imprint/plate blocks of 4 stamps each, and three corner blocks of 4, each with a sheet value marking. The 6 mint blocks	£2. 55
	(b)	As above. Set of 3 imprint/plate blocks, one of each value (of 4 stamps each)	£1. 35
		1973. Complete set of 3 imprint/plate blocks, one of each value (of 4 stamps each)	£1. 35
617		1974. The same composition as the lot above, but for the 1974 issues ..	£1. 05
618		1975. Set of 3 imprint/plate blocks, of 6 stamps each block	£1. 20

K. G. VI MINT

(Continued from last month's Bulletin)

C. P. No.

619	(a)	M1b ¹ / ₂ d Chestnut. Fine HM paper. Plate no. 17, in both right and left selvages, in two mint corner blocks of 8	90p
	(b)	" As above, plate no. 19 in right selvedge. Superb mint block of 24	£1. 00

(c)	"	As above. 9 pieces from slot machine rolls, including three wrapping papers, three strips with stamp joins and three centre papers. One wrapping paper (brown paper) is imperforate vertically, the other wrapper and centre papers (blue-green paper) are perforated. Very scarce material	£8. 50
620	M1c	<u>1d Chestnut</u> , Fine VM paper. 7 pieces from slot machines, includes two wrapping papers, four strips with stamp joins and one centre paper. Each stamp on two of the strips (one of which is used) shows two indentations where pins inside the slot machine have not been correctly aligned with the stamp perforations. The 7 pieces ..	£7. 50
621	(a) M1d	<u>1d Chestnut</u> , Coarse VM paper. Imprint/plate no. 111, in mint block of 6	54p
	(b) "	As above, R5/24 (retouch to top inner frame line at left) in mint block of 4	£1. 00
622	(a) M2a	<u>1d Scarlet</u> . The two Catalogued shades, mint (blocks pro rata) ..	36p
	(b) "	As above. Plate no. 14 in both right and left selvages. Two mint blocks of 8	£5. 70
	(c) "	As above. Once again plate no. 14 in both right and left selvages, this time mint blocks of 4	£4. 20
	(d) "	As above. 13 pieces from slot machines, includes five wrapping papers, two pairs with stamp joins and six centre papers. A remarkable collection, absolutely unrepeatable	£15. 00
623	M2b/c/d/e	<u>1d Green</u> , Fine HM, Fine VM, Coarse VM and Coarse HM papers. One of each mint (blocks pro rata)	57p
624	(a) M2c	<u>1d Green</u> , Fine VM paper. Imprint/plate no. 29, in mint block of 8	£1. 20
	(b) "	As above. Complete sheet of 240 from plate no. 29. Some foxing in places, but excellent research material. The complete sheet..	£3. 50
	(c) "	As above. Thin paper, mint single	15p
	(d) "	As above. Imprint/plate nos. 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107 and 108. Seven blocks of six stamps each, all from the bottom left corner of sheets - only plate no. 109 needed for completion	£3. 15
	(e) "	As above, watermark inverted, mint single (blocks pro rata)	£3. 00
	(f) "	As above. Imprint/plate no. 107 in mint block of 6, with watermark inverted. Slight foxing on one or two perfs, but a rare block (Cat. £18 as singles). The plate block	£15. 00
	(g) "	As above. Two complete double strips of 20 (2 x 10), the watermark of one being indistinct throughout, whereas on the second block it is clear at the top and much less distinct at the foot. The two Defective watermark blocks	£5. 00
	(h) "	As above. 12 pieces from slot machines, including 6 wrapping papers, one pair with stamp join, and five centre papers. One wrapper and one centre are on light blue paper, the remainder are on a deep cherry-red paper	£10. 50

(to be continued next month)

A mint collection of 32 stamps and 2 "Two-perf" pairs, contains $\frac{1}{2}$ d (3), 2d (4), 3d (5), 4d red-orange (2), 4d yellow (2), 5d (6, and a "Two-perf" pair), 6d (4), 8d (4, and a "Two-perf" pair) and 1/- (2). All three main perforations are represented and an example of every C.P. Catalogue number is included, with the exception of H3d, H3e, H4c, H6d, H6e (all of which are rarities) and H7a (it is doubtful if this stamp ever existed). Condition is, with very few exceptions, very fine. The mint collection, seldom available (Cat. is £75 plus)

£65. 00

626

1935 SILVER JUBILEE F.D.C.

A superb first day cover (registered letter addressed to Australia) - 7th May 1935 - of the 1935 Silver Jubilee set (C.P. S18a, b, c., S.G. 573 - 5). The envelope is one specially produced to commemorate this event, featuring in blue a portrait of K. G. V and the words "COMMEMORATING / THE SILVER JUBILEE OF HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE V". Both stamps and cover are in very fine condition. A superb and scarce item, to the first order received

£15. 00

627

1906 CHRISTCHURCH EXHIBITION -

1d CLARET

We are privileged to be able to offer a truly scintillating example of this, the most prestigious of all N. Z. stamps of the 20th Century. Being Row 1, no. 1 from the right-hand pane, the stamp has full selvedge at top and left (the latter is in fact the gutter which separated the two panes). Traces of hingeing, and reinforcement of a few split perfs, affect the selvedge only. The stamp itself is a superfine copy, unmounted mint, and brilliantly fresh, both back and front. Although there cannot possibly be any confusion (the difference is one of colour, not shade), a copy in the normal vermilion is included.

The Penny Claret, sheer perfection, and a rare connoisseur's item

£1450. 00

POSTAL STATIONERY

- 628 (a) Complete set of 4 "double strike" envelopes, consisting of one of each of the four types described in our article elsewhere in this month's Bulletin; showing (in a range of shades) all possible permutations of the $2\frac{1}{2}$ c and 3c stamps in the upper right and lower left corners. Highly unusual material, and irresistibly attractive - whether or not stationery happens to be your particular bent.

The set of envelopes

£17. 50

Note: Supplies of the above are severely restricted, but for those too late for a set, we can offer individual examples as follows:-

- (b) Envelope with $2\frac{1}{2}$ c stamp in both corners
- (c) Envelope with 3c stamp in both corners
- (d) Envelope with 3c at top right and $2\frac{1}{2}$ c at bottom left . . .

£4. 50

£4. 50

£4. 50