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VOLUME XIII

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N. Z. NOTES & COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton and Derek Redshaw

Readers possessing a copy of either the N. Z. Newsletter dated March 1956, or Volume 4 of "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand" (or both) may recall the centre plate variety 'progressively fading lines' occurring on the 8d value of the Southland Centennial issue (S71a). The area of interest is to the left of, and slightly below, the lowermost claw on the bird's right foot.

According to the Newsletter mentioned, variations in two short parallel horizontal lines at this point (Thirkell G5 in stamps where the frame and centre plates are in correct registration) provide strong evidence that the plate was laid down in vertical columns commencing at the bottom left, and returning to the bottom to begin each succeeding vertical row. This conclusion was based on the fact that R7/20 and R8/20 (that is, the bottom two stamps in the last vertical row of a sheet) show the two lines clearly, while on R6/20 the upper line has virtually disappeared. The lower line, although stable at first, starts to deteriorate at R1/20 until at R1/19 (i.e. the top of the second vertical row from the right) it too has disappeared, and remains absent in all other stamps in the sheet. (It should be noted here that the left hand side of the plate prints the right hand side of the sheet, of course).

On the other hand Volume 4, while recording similar variations in the appearance of these lines, states that the first impression to be laid down on the plate was that which printed R4/20, the second R5/20, the third R3/20 and the fourth R6/20. Unfortunately, no explanation is given for this categorical statement, and beyond these four impressions, the Handbook is not specific.

Volume 4 also states: "In the die for the centre of the 8d, there was a horizontal shading line to the left of the bird's right foot. This shading line was taken up from the die on to the transfer roller." The salient point here is the reference to one line only. The second line which occurs on R7/20 and R8/20 is recorded, but again without comment or explanation.

We were intrigued by the conflicting data, both on the order of laying down the impressions, and on the matter of the lines of shading, so we set out to see if we could learn anything further from the evidence of the stamps themselves.

Although hampered by the lack of large blocks, we were able to examine sufficient material from the right hand side of the sheet to concur with the descriptions of the physical characteristics of the horizontal lines, described in both the Newsletter and Volume 4. BUT we cannot agree that the lines actually disappear. Certainly they lose their strength, depth and sharpness, but in all other copies we looked at - even those from the extreme left of the sheet - there were faint traces of both of these lines.

We conclude therefore that not one, but two, lines were taken up from the die on to the transfer roller, and that first the upper line, and then the lower one, crumbled early in the laying down of the plate (note that in the recess-printing process, the printed lines are represented by fine grooves on the plate, but by similarly fine ridges on the transfer roller).

While it would be illuminating, perhaps, if we knew the grounds for the unsupported statements in the Handbook, we conclude from the evidence of the stamps that the impressions - at least those in the first two vertical rows on the plate - were laid down in the order indicated in the Newsletter note.

It isn't suggested that, in itself, this little investigation is of any great import, but it does illustrate one of the indispensable tools of the philatelist's trade - an inquiring mind. And speaking of inquiring minds, why accept our conclusions? Check the evidence for yourself!

Q. E. 2d on 1½d Error (N41a). Subsequent to the note in the July Bulletin, Mr. R. A. Betts has shown to us a mint top right corner copy with small obliterating dot in the surcharge, which had been lurking unnoticed in his collection for a number of years. As we said, it's worth examining your examples of this stamp!

Q. E. Counter Coil Pairs with Type (a) Coil Numbers. Our good and old friend Mr. R. D. Tweed has done it again! He now reports having a vertical pair of the 1/-, coil no. upright (NC6b) with the first digit in coil no. 11 being type (a). This should be added to the checklist given in the September Bulletin.

As we go to press, Mr. A. H. Molyneux reports having a pair of the 2d (NC1a) with coil no. 18, in which the '8' is type (a). Another one for the checklist.

KING GEORGE V RECESS-PRINTS - PLATE NUMBERS

1001	<u>Collection.</u> A delightful and most attractive lot of 30 mint stamps, each with plate number in top selvage (this marking invariably appeared high above R1/1 in sheets of these issues). Included are: <u>Perf. 14 x 13¼</u> : 1½d Pl. 14, 2d violet Pl. 15 and 16, 2d yellow Pl. 15, 2½d Pl. 17, 3d Pl. 18, 4d yellow Pl. 20 (three fine shades, most unusual in this value), 4d violet Pl. 20 (two shades), 4½d Pl. 21, 5d Pl. 43 (two, blue and steel blue), 6d Pl. 22 (worn plate), 23, 37 and 38 (a fine range of shades here), 7½d Pl. 24, 8d indigo-blue Pl. 39, 8d red-brown Pl. 39, 9d Pl. 25 (three, in all the Catalogued shades of sage, pale sage and yellow-olive), 1/- Pl. 27 (two shades) <u>Perf. 14 x 14¼</u> : 4d Pl. 44, 5d Pl. 43 (two, blue and pale ultra-marine), 1/- Pl. 41. Not complete, but a wonderful basis. The 30 'plate-singles', a really magnificent and (need we say it?) unrepeatable lot £150. 00
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We can also offer a few similar individual items as follows (all mint singles with plate number attached, except where otherwise stated):

1002	1½d Grey (K1a). Plate 14 £2. 25
1003 (a)	1½d Grey, "Pictorial" paper (K1d). Plate 14, number virtually complete (rarely seen thus). In mint block of 4, of which two stamps have no watermark £11. 00

1003 (b)	<u>As above.</u> Corner block of 4, only a small part of the plate number showing (the normal form, since the upper selvage is usually very much shallower in sheets on "Pictorial" paper)	£2. 75
1004	<u>2d Violet (K2a).</u> Plates 15 and 16. The two	£8. 25
1005	<u>2½d Deep Blue (K3a).</u> Plate 17	£2. 75
1006	<u>4d Violet (K5d).</u> Plate 20 (from markedly worn plate)	£2. 75
1007	<u>4½d Deep Green (K6a).</u> Plate 21. Scarce	£7. 00
1008 (a)	<u>6d Carmine (K8a).</u> Plate 23	£9. 75
(b)	<u>6d Official (K08a).</u> Plate 37	£5. 50
1009	<u>7½d Deep Red-Brown (K9a).</u> Plate 24	£2. 75
1010	<u>8d Indigo-Blue (K10a).</u> Plate 39	£2. 75
1011	<u>9d Sage-Green (K11a).</u> Plate 25, in the three Catalogued shades of sage-green, pale sage-green and the very scarce yellow-olive. The three ..	£19. 25
1012 (a)	<u>1/- Vermilion (K12a).</u> Plate 27 in the scarcer vermilion shade	£19. 25
(b)	<u>As above,</u> perf. 14 x 14¼ (K12b). Plate 41, in orange-vermilion	£7. 00

SECOND SIDEFACES - 'ADSON'

Some unusual offers of the fascinating issues of 1893-94 with advertisements printed on the backs. All stamps offered are perf. 10.

1013	<u>Reference set.</u> First setting advertisements were printed inverted or sideways reading downwards (in relation to the design of the stamp); Second and Third Settings were upright or sideways reading upwards. Our set consists of two First Setting stamps, and two Second Setting, showing adverts. in all four possible positions. For immediate identification the First Setting ads. in the set are both printed in red-brown on 1d stamps, and the Second Settings are in green on 2d values. As a final refinement, the same ad. appears on the 'upright' and 'inverted' copies, and the 'sideways' ad. is repeated in both other copies, thus giving <u>two matched pairs.</u> The superb specialist set of 4 used Adson	£5. 75
1014	<u>First Setting "Block-Type" Ads.</u> The vast majority of the advertisements (90% to be precise) were of identical form in the First and Second Settings. However, those for "Dodgshun's", "Crease's", "Flag Brand" and "Salsaline" invariably had white lettering on a coloured ground in the First Setting, and coloured lettering on a white ground in the Second (and Third). Our offer here is of three different block-type ads. peculiar to the First Setting, paired up with three of identical wording from the Second. The set of 6 used - dream material !	£9. 50
1015 (a)	<u>1d First Setting.</u> Single copies (with ad. either inverted or sideways reading down, of course). Each, used	95p
(b)	<u>As above.</u> Five all different, used	£4. 50
(c)	<u>As above.</u> Horizontal strip of 3, superfine used. Multiples are scarce !	£4. 50

1015 (d)	<u>As above.</u> Similarly fine used horizontal <u>pair</u>	£2. 75
1016 (a)	<u>1d Second or Third Setting.</u> Used pair	£1. 75
(b)	<u>As above.</u> Four used pairs, being one from each of the four panes of 60	£7. 50
(c)	<u>As above.</u> Used pair (ads. from positions 189/190), the stamps cancelled by a complete and fine strike of boxed 'LOOSE LETTER' mark. A lovely item	£2. 75
1017	<u>1d Third Setting.</u> Used pair, one of the ads. being a 'Poneke' (thus proving Third Setting)	£2. 00
1018 (a)	<u>2d First Setting.</u> Single copies, used. Each	85p
(b)	<u>As above.</u> Five different ads., used	£4. 00
1019 (a)	<u>2d Second Setting.</u> Superfine used <u>pair</u> with ads. printed in green (<u>any green ads. can only be Second Setting</u>)	£3. 85
(b)	<u>As above.</u> Three pairs, all different ads., all superfine used	£11. 00
(c)	<u>As above.</u> Single copies of the 2d with green ads, used each	£1. 65
	<u>or</u> Five different for	£7. 50
1020	<u>2d Third Setting.</u> Lovely used <u>pair</u> , one with 'Poneke' ad. (again proving the setting)	£1. 75
1021	<u>2½d Second Setting.</u> Single with green ad., fine used, scarce	£3. 30
1022	<u>3d Second or Third Setting.</u> Vertical pair with mauve ads. One stamp has a very minor nick, but an extremely scarce pair. Used	£5. 00
1023	<u>4d Second and Third Settings.</u> This value is unusual in that both the shade of the stamp and the colour of the advertisement are infallible guides to the Setting. Second Settings invariably have ads. in shades of <u>brown on green stamps</u> ; Third Settings are always in shades of <u>mauve on blue-green stamps</u> . These characteristics are shown to perfection in the two used <u>pairs</u> here offered	£6. 50
1024	<u>1/- Oddity.</u> Copy with brown advertisement reading "Sunlight Soap/Bonnington's Irish Moss" (the result of a massive 12mm vertical misplacement of the ads). Neither Sunlight nor Bonnington's bargained for this! The stamp is fiscally used, but all the interest is on the underside	£5. 00
1025	<u>Shifted Advertisements.</u> 12 copies (mainly 2d's, but incl. four green ads. and one or two other values) all with ads. sufficiently misplaced to show parts of adjacent impressions. The great advantage of such examples is that (as in the case of multiples) they can be assigned to their correct position in the sheet with absolute certainty. The 12 shifts, one or two defects, but mostly good to very fine used	£8. 50
1026	<u>Double Impressions.</u> Nine stamps - 5 x 1d (one with R19/2 major plate flaw, all mauve ads), 4 x 2d (all green ads) - each one with evidence of "kiss prints" in the form shadow double impressions of the ads. One of the 1d's is damaged and ignored in the price, condition of the others is fair to fine used	£9. 50

CHOICE ASSORTMENT

- 1027 (a) 1d Dominion. Most of the major issues are represented in this attractive little collection of multiples. Included are J1a De La Rue Chalky (block of 4), J2a Jones (two shade blocks of 4), J3a De La Rue Unsurfaced (pair), J4a De La Rue Sideways Wmk. (block of 4), J5a Litho Imitation Wmk. (three blocks of 4, one of which is a marginal block with blackish 'wmk'), J6a Cowan (block of 4).
The set of eight blocks and a pair, all finest mint £13. 75
- (b) As above. Corner block of 12 (4 x 3) on Jones paper (J2a). A little faint toning on the back does not mar the frontal appearance of a most handsome block £2. 50
- 1028 Second Pictorial 2d Whare. Mint corner block of 4 on coarse paper (L4f), two stamps showing, on the back, partial offset impressions of brilliant clarity £3. 75
- 1029 Q. E. 2d on 1½d Provisional. Bottom marginal block of 4 with variety 'Double print of surcharge, one albino' (N40aX). Seen from the reverse side, the albino impressions stand out clearly in relief near the centre of each stamp, and there are two further 'albinos' clearly visible from front or back in the selvedge. An extraordinarily fine example of a rare variety. The block, perfect mint £22. 50
- 1030 (a) 4c on 2½c Moth. Set of 14 plate/imprint blocks (10 stamps in each block), absolutely complete for all three printings of the surcharge. One set only available - already very difficult to duplicate.
The set of 14 blocks, mint £16. 50
- (b) As above. Sheet value block (of 10 stamps) from the Harrison Letterpress printing, with the variety 'Surcharge offset on back' (P30bV). In this block there is a complete offset of the bars obliterating the sheet value, and of the surcharge itself on two of the stamps, while the remaining eight stamps show partial offset impressions. The rare block (only one other similar block is known to us). Mint £42. 50
- (c) As above. The same variety (P30bV) in mint strip of 4, one stamp having the complete surcharge offset, the others with partial offset £22. 50
- 1031 (a) 1906 Christchurch Exhibition. Short set of 3 (only the ½d value is missing), all fully justifying the description 'extraordinarily fine used', being fresh clean copies with clear circular cancellations contemporary with the Exhibition (the 3d and 6d are cancelled by the "EXHIBITION CHRISTCHURCH" datestamp of 25 MR 1907, and both incidentally also have the variety watermark inverted). Really gilt-edged buying for the discerning collector ... £57. 50
- (b) As above. An unused copy of the 6d value with the rare variety watermark reversed. In this example the pink printing is unfortunately rather badly faded, but that fact provides someone with an opportunity to fill a near-impossible gap at an unrepeatable price. The 6d "reversed" £12. 50
- 1032 1973 Locomotive 5c. Mint specimen showing the variety 'Red colour doubled' (S171aY), seen as a faint but quite distinct second impression of the figure of value £8. 25

1033	(a)	<u>Health Stamps 1929 - 1975.</u> Complete collection of 49 sets (95 stamps), incl. both wmk. of 1957 and both perms. of 1960. All stamps are unmounted mint. The complete collection of Healths, seldom available nowadays in this superb condition	£75. 00
	(b)	<u>Health Miniature Sheets.</u> The complete collection of 38 miniature sheets, 1957 - 1975 (including both wmk. of 1957), all unmounted mint	£25. 50
	(c)	<u>Miniature Sheet Variety.</u> 1959 2d + 1d miniature sheet of 6 with, on stamp 4, the prominent variety "Black-eyed bird" (constant on one in every eight of these sheets)	£1. 25
LONG FISCALS, ARMS TYPES, ETC.			
1034		<u>Long Fiscals.</u> A good lot of these issues (various types), with face values from 1d to £3 - duplication in some values. Mainly fiscally used, but some appear to have postal cancellations. The 68 long fiscals	£10. 00
1035	(a)	<u>Arms Types.</u> The 1956/8 issues on unsurfaced paper, including 1/3, watermark upright and inverted, and £1 values. The three mint Arms types, distinctive with horizontal mesh and clean cut perforations (Z30g, Z30gZ and Z42e)	£12. 50
	(b)	<u>As above.</u> The 1/3 value on unsurfaced H. M. paper with watermark inverted (Z30gZ). A scarce stamp, superb unhinged mint	£2. 75
1036	(a)	<u>Officials.</u> A small unused collection of Arms types and long fiscals overprinted "Official". The 10 stamps include 2/- long fiscal (5, including a "no stop" variety in pair with normal and the difficult 1925 Cowan paper issue) 5/- long fiscal (2) and 5/- Arms type (3, the 1943-62 issues). One or two faults affect the backs of stamps only - facial appearance is excellent throughout. A difficult-to-repeat lot (Cat. over £31)	£16. 50
	(b)	<u>As above.</u> The 5/- Arms type official on unsurfaced H. M. paper (Z033e). First grade mint or used, each	£1. 65
1037		<u>Stamp Duty.</u> A total of 15 stamps, including stamp duty types - 1d lilac, Z1a (used copy); 1d blue Z1b(4, one unused, no gum, and 3 different shades used) - 9 Land and Deeds stamps, all used 1/- (2, one of large format), 2/-, 3/-, 4/-, 5/-, 6/-, 10/- and 15/-, and one Law Courts 1/- stamp. Extremely attractive and desirable collection of these unusual stamps	£12. 50
1038	(a)	<u>First Sidefaces.</u> Complete set 1d - 1/- of the original perf. 12½ issues of 1874 (S. G. 152-157), condition unusually fine used throughout. The set of 6	£13. 75
	(b)	<u>As above.</u> 1d - 1/- values in the 1878 issue, comb perforation 12 x 11½. This set comprises of 5 used stamps (the 3d value does not exist in this perforation) and condition is once again first-class	£6. 65
1039		<u>1940 Centennial "Officials".</u> A complete set of New Zealand's only commemorative issue overprinted "Official" (S026a - S038a). Becoming increasingly more elusive. The set of 11, finest mint	£4. 75

SECOND PICTORIALS - SINGLE VALUE SPECIALISED SETS

Each offer comprises every major issue in that particular value, all fully identified.

1040	<u>½d Fantail.</u> Single wmk and multiple wmk (L1a/b). Two used	10p
1041	<u>1d Kiwi.</u> Single wmk (4) and multiple wmk (1) (L2a/b/c (2, one wmk upr., one wmk inv.)/d). Five used	£2. 75
1042	<u>1½d Maori Cooking.</u> Single wmk (3, incl. the scarce wmk inverted-and-reversed) and multiple wmk (1) (L3a/b/c/d). Set of 4, <u>mint</u>	£1. 38
1043 (a)	<u>2d Whare.</u> Single wmk (1) and multiple wmk (5) (L4a/b/c/d/e/f). Set of 6 <u>mint</u>	£1. 10
(b)	<u>As above.</u> Exactly the same set, but used	40p
1044	<u>3d Maori Girl.</u> Single wmk and multiple wmk (L6a/b). Set of 2 used	11p
1045 (a)	<u>6d Harvesting.</u> Single wmk (1) and multiple wmk (4) (L9a/b/c/d/e). Set of 5, <u>mint</u>	£1. 75
(b)	<u>As above.</u> The same set of 5, used	33p
1046	<u>1/- Tui.</u> Single wmk (1) and multiple wmk (3) (L12a/b/c/d). Set of 4 <u>mint</u>	£3. 20
1047	<u>2½d Official.</u> Multiple wmk (3) (L05c/d/e). Set of 3, <u>mint</u>	£1. 25
1048 (a)	<u>4d Mitre Peak.</u> Multiple wmk (4) (L07b/c/d/e). Set of 4, <u>mint</u>	£1. 00
(b)	<u>As above.</u> Same set, but used	28p
1049 (a)	<u>6d Official.</u> Multiple wmk (4) (L09b/c/d/e). Set of 4 <u>mint</u>	£1. 10
(b)	<u>As above.</u> Same set, used	40p
1050	<u>9d Official.</u> Multiple wmk (2) (L011c/e). Identification is easy here. The designs are of different sizes and in addition the overprint is in <u>green</u> on L011c and in <u>black</u> on L011e. The set of 2 <u>mint</u>	£3. 30

1970 - 75 PICTORIALS

All values to 10c of this series are scheduled to be superseded by completely new designs in the near future, so we present a comprehensive listing of items which will soon become difficult to replace. In fact many are already obsolete and in the "when they're gone they're gone" category.

Original Issues, wmk'd paper.

½c	Single mint 5p (blocks pro rata), used	3p
	Imprint/Plate 1B x 4 or sheet value block, each	55p

1c	Single mint 5p (blocks pro rata), used	3p
	Sheet value block	55p
	Booklet stamp, wmk sideways inverted, mint 5p, used	3p
	Booklet pane of six stamps, mint	33p
	Booklet pane of three stamps and three advertising labels, mint	33p
2c	Single mint 5p (blocks pro rata), used	3p
	Imprint/Plate 1A x 4 or sheet value block, each	66p
2½c	Single mint 5p (blocks pro rata), used	4p
	Imprint/Plate 1A x 4 or 1B x 4, each	80p
3c	Single mint 5p (blocks pro rata), used	3p
	Imprint/Plate 1A2A1A or sheet value block, each	55p
	Variety: Watermark inverted (W8c). Single, mint or used	22p
	Block of 4 mint	80p
	Variety: R3/9-10 (Pl. 1A2A1A) Major retouch in background affecting both stamps. In mint marginal block of 6	55p
	Counter coil pair, coil no. sideways reading upwards	21p
	Booklet stamp, wmk sideways inverted, mint 5p, used	4p
	Booklet pane of six stamps, mint	55p
4c	Single mint 7p (blocks pro rata), used	3p
	Imprint/Plate 1A x 5, 1B x 5 or sheet value block, each	£1. 65
	Counter coil pair, coil no. sideways reading upwards	44p
	Booklet stamp, wmk sideways inverted, mint 7p, used	6p
	Booklet pane of six stamps, mint or used, each	55p
5c	Single mint 7p (blocks pro rata), used	6p
	Imprint/Plate 1A x 4, 1B x 4 or sheet value block, each	£1. 65
	Sheet value blocks (2), one with "VALUE \$12.00" obliterated and surcharged "VALUE \$10.00", and the other with "VALUE \$10.00" only. The two blocks	£3. 85
	Counter coil pair, coil no. sideways reading upwards	55p
	Counter coil pair, coil no. sideways reading downwards	55p
6c	Single mint 10p (blocks pro rata), used	7p
	Imprint/Plate 1A x 3, 1B x 3 or sheet value block, each	£1. 65
	Counter coil pair, coil no. sideways reading upwards	55p
7c	Single mint 9p (blocks pro rata), used	7p
	Imprint/Plate 1A x 4, 1B x 4 or sheet value block, each	£1. 65
7½c	Single mint 11p (blocks pro rata), used	11p
	Imprint/Plate 1A x 4, 1B x 4 or sheet value block, each	£1. 95
8c	Single mint 11p (blocks pro rata), used	9p
	Imprint/Plate 1A x 5, 1B x 5 or sheet value block, each	£1. 95
	Counter coil pair, coil no. sideways reading upwards	70p
First Day Cover. 5c - 8c (5 values) on illustrated F. D. C. pmk'd Auckland 4/11/75		50p
10c	Single mint 14p (blocks pro rata), used	6p
	Imprint/Plate 1A x 4 (6 stamps)	£1. 38
	Counter coil pair, coil no. sideways reading downwards	£1. 10

(to be continued next month)