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VOLUME XIII

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A TIMELY WARNING

by Colin Hamilton



London Prints



Local Prints

The variety "Pair Imperf. Between" exists on the $\frac{1}{2}$ d Mount Cook of the 1898 London Print Pictorials. Like similar varieties on other issues (which as far as New Zealand at least is concerned seem to have occurred mainly, but not exclusively, in stamps issued around the turn of the century), it is rare and highly desirable - when it is the real thing.

Unfortunately, this is one of the comparatively few instances where dangerous pitfalls await those who are not alert to their existence, whether through ignorance or carelessness. And since these pitfalls are the result of an unusual set of circumstances, a step-by-step explanation may be both interesting and, perhaps more important, instructive.

About two years after the issue of the "purple" 1898 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, the colour was changed to green, to conform with U. P. U. regulations. At the same time the design was redrawn, new plates were made, and all green $\frac{1}{2}$ d's differ in minor design details from the purple (London) $\frac{1}{2}$ d's. In addition, the dimensions of the designs are slightly smaller than previously.

Now it so happens that imperforate proof sheets were printed from the new plates, on unwmk'd paper and in a colour very similar to that of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d stamp issued in 1898. As proofs go, these are incidentally quite common.

Some unscrupulous person, aware of the genuine "imperf. between" variety on the London Print, obviously saw the "possibilities" offered by these proofs, and set about producing his own version of the variety by the relatively simple expedient of providing proofs with forged perforations. At least some of these fraudulent items have survived undetected to the present day. They turn up from time to time, and twice in recent months we have seen a bogus pair purporting to be genuine, offered by well-known sources.

Fortunately, with a basic knowledge, identification of these fraudulent items readily resolves itself into a matter not of opinion but of hard fact. As has been stated, there are a number of clearly defined differences in the designs involved. The most prominent - and absolutely conclusive - is that shown in the enlarged illustrations above. In the London Prints the tips of the ornamental leaves immediately above the H of HALF and above Y of PENNY encroach across the broad white horizontal line forming the top frame of the value panel; in the Local Prints (and this includes the proofs in the colour of the London Prints), these leaves end immediately above the white line.

So no matter how convincing an imperf-between pair may appear - whether mint, used or on cover - it cannot be genuine if the leaves do not cross the white line.

This point is already covered by the footnote under E1a in our Catalogue, but it is as well to mention here that the perforation varieties of the London Print 2d of the same series (that is C. P. E5aZ and Y, S. G. 251a, 252 and b) may be found simulated in a similar fashion, since imperf. proofs from the plates made for the redrawn issue of 1900 exist (again in considerable quantities) in the colour of the London Print 2d. But here too there are a number of differences in the design which make identification of the bogus "varieties" a simple matter. In this case the size of the design is perhaps the simplest, the London Prints being 19mm x 23.25mm, and the Local Prints 18mm x 22mm.

An old chestnut, overheard the other day, but with that grain of truth which makes it perennially worth repeating:

Tyro: What's the difference between a collector and a dealer?

Old sage: Well, son, a collector is someone who is always wanting to sell, and a dealer is someone who's always wanting to buy!

SECOND SIDEFACES

As these elusive issues have for many years past been difficult to obtain in any quantity, the following lots offer unusually wide coverage of perforation, paper and die differences. Many are unrepeatable, so read on carefully - but quickly!

- | | | |
|----------|---|--------|
| 1101 (a) | <u>1d Black.</u> A mint positional block of 24 (6 rows of 4) from the top left pane of a printed sheet, Perf. 11 (D1e). Condition is exceptionally fine for a block of this size | £4. 00 |
| (b) | <u>As above.</u> A used strip of 4 stamps, perf 11 (D1e), with a gutter join between stamps 1 and 2. A very early forerunner of the "gutter pair" items currently much in vogue (in G. B. issues). Most unusual and attractive, fine used | £1. 75 |
| (c) | <u>As above,</u> fine mint block of 4 stamps, perf 11, on the provisional 1900 'Waterlow' paper (D1h) | 85p |
| (d) | <u>As above.</u> Collection of 8 used stamps, including all the main Catalogued perforations and shades, as well as two copies on 'Waterlow' paper. A complete basic collection | £4. 50 |
| 1102 (a) | <u>1d Rose.</u> Three fine blocks of four, all die 3, with perforations 10 (D2j), 10 x 11 (D2m) and 11 (D2p), also showing a fine range of shades | £2. 50 |
| (b) | <u>As above.</u> Four pairs, all perf. 11 (D2p) - one pair in each of the Catalogued shades. Very good mint | £2. 55 |
| (c) | <u>As above.</u> A mint block of 6, perf. 10 (D2j), one of which has the major 'screwdriver' flaw (R9/2, bottom left hand pane). Very attractive .. | £2. 50 |

- 1102 (d) As above. Six mint stamps, all die 3, one perf. 10 (D2j), one perf. 10 x 11 (D2m) and four shades perf. 11 (D2p) £1. 80
- (e) As above. Collection of 22 used stamps, all three dies being represented, and included are D2a (3), D2ba, D2c, D2e (4), D2g, D2j (5), D2m (3) and D2p (4). Condition is extremely good throughout £5. 50
- (f) As above. A fine used single in the variety perforation 11 x 10 (D2mZ) .. £1. 10
- (g) As above. R9/2, bottom left hand pane, 'screwdriver' flaw. Used single 75p
- (h) As above. R4/6, top left hand pane, large break in top frame line, also break in bottom right frame line. Used single 75p
- (i) As above. R1/4, top right hand pane, small break over ND of LAND. Used single 75p
- 1103 (a) 2d Lilac. Mint horizontal pair, die 2, perf. 12 x 11½ on the original 6mm wmk. horizontal mesh paper (D3ab). The stamps are stained and off centre to the left, but are still attractive (Catalogue £6. 60) £4. 00
- (b) As above. Five mint stamps, all die 3, and including perf. 10 (D3g), two perf. 10 x 11 (D3j) and two perf. 11 (D3k) stamps £4. 40
- (c) As above. Collection of 19 used stamps, including D3a (3), D3ab, D3b (2) D3c (3), D3e, D3g (4), D3j (2), D3k (2) and D3p. Once again all three dies are represented, and condition is generally high. £3. 00
- 1104 (a) 2½d Blue. An interesting set of three used pieces - a pair perf. 12 x 11½ 7mm wmk. (D4c) with a c.d.s. of CARTERTON 28 NO 91, a pair perf. 10 (D4e) with a small type c.d.s. of TEAROHA 11 MY 97, and a strip of three stamps perf. 10 x 11 (D4h) with a small type c.d.s. WAIRIO 19 MR 00. The seven used stamps, very attractive £5. 00
- (b) As above. No less than 10 used stamps, including D4a (2), D4c, D4e (2), D4h (2) and D4j (3). A fine showing of an elusive stamp, all in fine condition £6. 50
- 1105 (a) 3d Yellow. Mint copy of the first issue in 1882, on 6mm wmk HM paper (D5a). Not perfect and priced accordingly, but still a useful spacefiller at £2. 10
- (b) As above. Mint pair on the temporary 4mm wmk "Life Insurance" paper (D5c). A crease affects one stamp, but a superb looking pair and desirable at £5. 50
- (c) As above. Mint block of four, perf. 11 (D5h). Multiples in this tip top condition are always difficult to obtain £8. 00
- (d) As above. Collection of 14 used stamps, including D5a, D5b (2), D5c, D5e (4), D5f (2, including the scarce pale orange-yellow shade) and D5h (4). A complete collection by Catalogue number and shade, except the rare perf. 10 x 12½ (D5d) and one shade each of perf. 10 and perf. 12 x 11½ (Life Insurance paper). Condition good to superb £8. 00
- (e) As above. A used perf. 11 stamp (D5h) with various transient flaws, including two orange patches around the nose of the Queen. Very striking! £1. 00

- 1106 4d Green. 10 used stamps form a near complete collection by Catalogue number and shade. Included are D6a (2), D6b (4), D6e, D6f and D6g (2). No apology for repeating that condition is once again fine throughout ... £2. 50
- 1107 5d Olive-black. Small collection of seven used stamps, including D7a (a), D7d (2), D7e (2) and D7f. Condition above average for this difficult stamp. £4. 15
- 1108 (a) 6d Brown. Used (dated) horizontal strip of four die 2 stamps, perf. 10 (D8h), with c. d. s. WELLINGTON 14 SP 96. Most attractive, despite two minor stain spots. £1. 00
- (b) As above. Collection of 13 used stamps, comprised of 7 die 1 and 6 die 2 stamps. Included are D8a (2), D8b (2), D8c, D8e (2), D8h (2), D8k (2) and D8m (2). One or two small faults, but generally condition is good to fine £7. 10
- 1109 8d Blue. Used single of D9b £3. 30
- 1110 (a) 1/- Red-brown. An unused (no gum) mint pair, perf. 11 (D10k). Slightly off centre to the left, but still very collectable (Cat. £11) £4. 50
- (b) As above. Two used pairs, one is a superb pair on the original 1882 HM paper with 6mm wmk. perf. 12 x 11½ (D10a) and the other a richly coloured pair (slightly foxed) perf. 11 (D10k) £7. 50
- (c) As above. Collection of 13 used stamps providing a superb range of shades. Included are D10a (3), D10c (2), D10e (3), D10h (2) and D10k (3). Condition ranges from well above average to superb £23. 00

KING GEORGE VI 3/- SPECIALISED

- 1111 (a) Shades. Set of 4 mint singles showing a fine array of shades £3. 25
- (b) As above. A similarly fine range of shades, but in mint blocks of 4. The four shade blocks £13. 50
- 1112 Plate Blocks. With plate nos. 2-1 or 3A-1 (orders for both blocks will be supplied in good contrasting shades as far as stocks permit). Each plate block of 4, mint £3. 50
- 1113 Paper Variety. Mint block of 4 on extraordinarily thin paper £3. 50
- 1114 (a) Inverted Watermark. Mint blocks of 4, each with wmk sideways inverted, in both the Catalogued shades (M16aY and X) £10. 00
- (b) As above. Mint block of 4 with centre in the deep chocolate, again with wmk. inverted £4. 00
- (c) As above. Single stamp with wmk inverted (deep choc. centre). Mint .. £1. 00
- 1115 Perforation Variety. Mint N.E. and S.E. corner blocks of 4 (almost certainly from the same sheet) which have the top selvedge not perforated through and the bottom selvedge perforated through respectively, i.e. the sheet has been perforated from top-to-bottom, instead of the normal bottom-to-top. Rare. The two blocks £12. 50

(Note: We will be pleased to consider orders for one of the above blocks only at £7. 50. Each block by itself proves the point perfectly, of course).

- 1116 Progressive Plate Varieties. A marvellous and perhaps uniquely comprehensive study of the plate varieties which occurred on R14/4 and 15/4, showing no less than 9 different states, from the original (pre-flaws), through developing flaws, and re-entries to the late state with frame plate cracks. All states are represented in mint plate blocks of 12 or 15 stamps each, and full annotation is included. A brilliant example of a philatelic story told in stamps.
The 9 progressive blocks £85. 00
(For those who may have a partly formed collection of this series, we can supply individual examples - all in large plate blocks - of states 2, 4, 5, 6 and 9 at £9. 50 each).
- 1117 Frame Plate Re-entry. Mint positional block of 6 including the re-entry to R10/8 (see Vol. 4, page 127). The block £5. 00
- 1118 Constant Flaw. A small but noticeable flaw appeared in the top leaf of the scroll ornament (above '3/-') at right. Offered in marginal mint block of 4 £3. 25
- 1119 "Tonal Variation". A quite remarkable block of 4 showing the result of inefficient wiping of the centre plate during the printing process. The entire surface is covered by closely spaced brown lines, giving a strangely spectacular appearance which has to be seen to be appreciated.
The mint block £6. 50

K. G. VI 1952 - 53 PROVISIONAL ISSUES

- 1120 (a) 3d on 1d Green. Mint blocks of 4 in the listed shades of green and yellow green. Attractive ! The two blocks 40p
- (b) As above. Complete mint sheet of 240 from plate 117. Superb for study both of stamps and surcharge. A lot of pleasure for someone at only ... £6. 50
- (c) As above. Complete set of 9 plate/imprint blocks of 6, including the scarcer plates 108 and 109. The 9 mint blocks £13. 00
- (d) As above. Individual plate/imprint blocks can be supplied as follows:-
(i) Pl. 108 £2. 50
(ii) Pl. 114 75p
(iii) Pl. 112, 113, 115, 116, 117 or 118, each 40p
- 1121 (a) 1d on ½d Chestnut. Although shades are not listed in this issue, we can offer two mint blocks of 4 of really superb contrasts. The two shade blocks 30p
- (b) As above. Complete sheets of 240. Choice of two (one from each of the plates 101 and 133). Again wonderful material for study.
Each sheet, mint £3. 00
- (c) As above. Plate/imprint blocks of 6 from plate 101 or 133, each 25p

KING GEORGE VI OFFICIALS

These are very much under-rated issues. Many are considerably scarcer than their Catalogue valuations would suggest, and with the recent and long overdue upsurge in interest in 'Officials' generally, the opportunity may never come again. Stocks of most items are strictly limited.

- 1122 (a) ½d Green. Plate no. 2 in mint block of 4 60p

- 1122 (b) As above. Mint block of 10, with partial offset impression of the design affecting the reverse side of 5 stamps. Nice £3. 75
- 1123 (a) 1¹/₂d Chestnut. Mint block of 4 of the two issues - on fine HM and coarse VM papers (MO1b and d). The two blocks 35p
- (b) As above, fine HM paper (MO1b). Imprint block, plus plate nos. 17 and 19 in both left and right selvages, all in corner blocks of 8. Some slight toning on the plate blocks, hence £1. 25
- (c) As above, coarse VM paper (MO1d). Complete set of three plate/imprint blocks, including the rare plate 133, of which very few examples indeed are recorded. A surface thinning affects the selvedge only alongside one stamp in the rare block, otherwise fine mint. The three plate/imprint blocks .. £15. 00
- 1124 1d Scarlet. A fine little single-value collection. Selvedge markings are complete, with imprint (in strip of 4), pl. 4 in left selvedge (in pair), and plates 6 and 7 in both side selvages (all in blocks of 4). Finally, two constant plate varieties from plate 6 - R5/18 touch-up (in block of 4) and R10/19 touch-up (in marginal pair). One or two toned spots on the imprint and variety pieces, otherwise fine mint. The collection (28 stamps)..... £3. 75
- 1125 1d Green, fine HM paper (MO2b). Plate/imprint block of 8, fine mint, and scarce £5. 00
- 1126 (a) 1d Green, fine VM paper (MO2c). Single mint 4p
or block of 4 15p
- (b) As above. Imprint/plate 32 or 33, each mint (block of 8) 40p
- (c) As above. Imprint/plate 33, in a beautifully delicate shade of pale emerald green, mint £2. 25
- (d) As above. Imprint/plate 106, 107 or 109, each (block of 6) 30p
- 1127 (a) 1d Green, coarse VM paper (MO2d). Two superb shades in mint blocks of 4 30p
- (b) As above. Imprint/plate 43, 48, 49, 50, 53, 66 or 85, each, mint (8 stamps) 75p
- (c) As above. Imprint/plate 77 or 78, each, mint (8 stamps) £1. 00
- (d) As above. Imprint/plate 122, 123, 124 or 125 each, mint (6 stamps) .. 40p
- 1128 (a) 1¹/₂d Chocolate (MO4a). A singularly elusive stamp, missing from many collections. Mint single £1. 10
- (b) As above. Plate block of 4 (pl. 21) with plate number in left or right selvedge. Each, mint £5. 50
- 1129 (a) 1¹/₂d Scarlet (MO4c). Two mint blocks of 4, one being on markedly thinner paper. The two blocks 80p
- (b) As above. Imprint/plate 129 (with R9/22 retouch), 130 or 136, mint each (6 stamps) 75p
- 1130 (a) 2d Yellow-orange, coarse VM paper (MO6a). Three brilliant shades in mint blocks of 4 50p

1130	(b)	<u>As above.</u> Imprint/plate 55 (8 stamps). Mint	£2. 75
	(c)	<u>As above.</u> Imprint/plate 61 or 80, each (8 stamps), mint	35p
	(d)	<u>As above.</u> Imprint/plate 140 (6 stamps). Mint	25p
	(e)	<u>As above.</u> Vertical pair, one stamp having a strong full offset impression of the 'Official' overprint on the reverse, the other with partial offset. A striking variety. The pair	£8. 50
1131	(a)	<u>2d Yellow-orange,</u> coarse HM paper (MO6b). Mint block of 4 in deep orange (normal for this issue) plus another block in a distinctly paler shade. The two blocks	£1. 95
	(b)	<u>As above.</u> Imprint/plate 86 (8 stamps), mint	£2. 75
1132	(a)	<u>3d Blue.</u> An outstanding set of five blocks of 4 (selected without regard to difference in paper) showing a glorious range of shades. The makings of a page entitled "Rhapsody in Blue" :	£1. 50
	(b)	<u>As above.</u> Imprint/plate 57, 58 or 69, each (8 stamps) mint	45p
	(c)	<u>As above.</u> Imprint/plate 138 or 139, each (4 stamps), mint	25p
	(d)	<u>As above.</u> Vertical strip of 3 on coarse paper (MO7c), the lower pair having a magnificent offset of the overprint on the reverse: the top stamp in the strip is normal. The mint strip	£10. 50

1970 - 75 PICTORIALS

(The listing continued from last month's Bulletin)

Later issues, unwmk'd paper

(a)	<u>Gum as before.</u>	
1c	Single mint 5p (blocks pro rata), used	3p
	Imprint/Plate 1A x 4 or 1B x 4, each	55p
	Booklet pane of 6 stamps, mint	11p
	Booklet pane of 3 stamps and 3 labels, mint	9p
2c	Single mint 5p (blocks pro rata), used	3p
	Imprint/Plate 1A x 4, 1B x 4 or sheet value block, each	66p
3c	Single mint 4p (blocks pro rata), used	3p
	Imprint/Plate 2A2A1A or 2B2B1B, each	30p
	Booklet pane of 6 stamps, mint	22p
	<u>Variety:</u> R10/1 (Pl. 2B2B1B) Flaw across rear right wing. In plate block of 10	37p
4c	Single mint 5p (blocks pro rata), used	3p
	Imprint/Plate 1A x 5 or 1B x 5, each	44p
	Booklet pane of 6 stamps, mint	28p
	Counter coil pair, coil no. sideways reading upwards	27p
5c	Single mint 6p (blocks pro rata), used	5p
	Imprint/Plate 1A x 4, 1B x 4 or sheet value block, each	69p
	Counter coil pair, coil no. sideways reading upwards	33p
6c	Single mint 6p (blocks pro rata), used	5p
	Imprint/Plate 1A x 3, 1B x 3 or sheet value block, each	75p

7c	Single mint 7p (blocks pro rata), used	7p
	Imprint/Plate 1A x 4, 1B x 4 or sheet value block, each	61p
10c	Single mint 14p (blocks pro rata), used	6p
	Imprint/Plate 1A x 4	£1. 10
	Sheet value block of 4	70p
	Counter coil pair, coil no. sideways reading upwards	75p
(b)	<u>Bluish gum.</u>	
1c	Single mint 2p, block of 4	15p
	Imprint/Plate 1A x 4, 1B x 4 or sheet value block, each	14p
2c	Single mint 3p, block of 4	10p
	Imprint/Plate 1A x 4, 1B x 4 or sheet value block, each	20p
4c	Single mint 4p, block of 4	15p
	Imprint/Plate 1A x 5, 1B x 5 or sheet value block, each	36p
	Counter coil pair, coil no. sideways reading upwards	27p
6c	Single mint 6p, block of 4	24p
	Imprint/Plate 1A x 3, 1B x 3 or sheet value block, each	55p
8c	Single mint 9p, block of 4 36p, used single	7p
	Imprint/Plate 1A x 5, 1B x 5 or sheet value block, each	83p
	Counter coil pair, coil no. sideways reading upwards	55p
10c	Single mint 10p, block of 4	40p
	Imprint/Plate 1A x 4 or 1A1A1A2A (note that both of these have the light blue and red plate number retouched), each	69p
	Counter coil pair, coil no. sideways reading upwards	66p

RECENT ISSUES

6/8/75	1975 Christmas 3c, 5c, 10c.	
	Set of 3, mint	17p
	Imprint/plate blocks. Complete set of three blocks (of 4 stamps each)	£1. 10
	Official First Day Cover	24p
	Postcard size reproduction of "The Virgin and Child" by Zanobi Machiavelli, the painting featured on this year's 3c Christmas stamp. The original painting hangs at the Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin, New Zealand. The black and white postcard (essential 'write-up' material) ..	18p
No fixed date of issue	25c Hauraki Gulf National Park. New plate numbers 23523, in block of 6, with printer's imprint	£1. 50
	4c Cape Egmont Life Insurance Issue (X30a). Printing from new plates 2-2, in which both blue and orange-yellow colours are of a markedly lighter shade than the original issue, thus giving the whole stamp a different appearance. Imprint/plate block of 4	25p
	Mint single (blocks pro rata)	5p
	(For those who require a copy in the original shades for comparison, we can supply single mint copies at 5p each).	
Varieties	8c Forest Parks. R3/10 red plate flaw, shows as a red dot in top left hand margin of stamp. Mint corner block of 6, with sheet value marking	45p
	23c Forest Parks. R7/9 touch-up in sky, at top edge of stamp. Marginal mint block of 4	85p
	<u>Special Cancellations on Cover.</u>	
	30 AUG 1975 Golden Jubilee of Radio Broadcasting in N. Z., 1925-1975, Wellington N. Z.	12p
	9 SEPT 1975 World Billiards Championships/Auckland N. Z.	12p
	11 SEPT 1975 National Camellia Convention/Hawera N. Z.	12p