

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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THE LONG AND THE SHORT OF IT

by Colin Hamilton

An interesting little postscript arises from my note in November's Bulletin on the 1898 London Print Pictorial $\frac{1}{2}$ d, albeit in no way related to the partially imperf. varieties discussed then.

When checking our normal stocks of this stamp, I noticed that in some copies the vertical measurement of the design is distinctly greater than in others. The difference is only about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm, which may not sound much, but when careful comparison is made one against the other, $\frac{1}{2}$ mm becomes quite considerable, and certainly of naked-eye proportions.

Following this up a little farther, it was soon obvious that all the longer examples were printed on paper with the mesh vertical to the design, while all the shorter ones had the paper mesh horizontal. Moreover, the width of the designs in the vertical mesh copies was invariably slightly less than in the horizontal mesh stamps. Undoubtedly, these variations can be put down simply to shrinkage of the paper after printing. (Since it is a fact that paper tends to be less strong parallel to the mesh than it is across the mesh, any shrinkage would be more pronounced in the weaker direction.)

The use in this value of the paper with the mesh either vertical or horizontal was noted and reported by others many years ago, and paper shrinkage is common in almost all forms of printing, so neither observation is especially significant per se. However, the occurrence of both phenomena in the one value makes this $\frac{1}{2}$ d stamp an ideal 'practice ground' for anyone wishing to develop the knack of identifying paper mesh, particularly as many copies (though not all, since more than one quality of paper was employed) have an unusually prominent mesh which is perfect for the beginner to work on.

In my experience, by far the commonest problem confronting anyone setting out to master mesh is that he has no certain means of verifying his work afterwards, to reassure himself that he is on the right lines. But with this stamp (if our admittedly rather limited stock provides an accurate guide) he has a built-in check that is infallible. Vertical mesh is always found in combination with the slightly longer design; horizontal mesh always with the shorter design.

So provided only that he can lay hands on a mixed bundle - a dozen or two would suffice - anyone can, without outside assistance, get down with confidence to acquiring the vitally important skill of recognising paper mesh.

Footnote: Although I have in the above notes referred to the mesh as being either vertical or horizontal to the design, I should emphasise that this is merely for

convenience, because the stamps concerned are unwatermarked. Normally mesh is described as vertical or horizontal in relation to the watermark, so beginners should note that where a stamp has watermark sideways (or sideways inverted), "vertical mesh" would in fact be horizontal to the design, and "horizontal mesh" would be vertical to the design.

MINT ALLSORTS

As in their liquorice namesakes, we expect most collectors will find their particular favourite among the offers below :

- 101 First Sideface Plate Proofs. Set of 5 values (1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d), imperf. on thick white paper, and printed in unissued colours - orange-brown, blue, mauve-lilac, carmine and brown respectively - all overprinted 'CANCELLED' in black. The attractive set of 5 plate proofs... £17. 50
- 102 ½d Mt Cook Green. Two magnificent blocks of 4 on 'Pirie' paper, perf. 11 (F1a) in superb shades of deep and pale yellow-green. Both beautifully centred - in an issue notorious for dreadful centring - and as an added attraction the deeper block includes a re-entry unrecorded in the Handbooks. The two blocks £6. 50
- 103 1d Universal. Bottom marginal copy, perf. 14, from the first Royle "Trial" plate (G10a) - proved by the plate number R1 in the selvage. The scarce "plate single", mint £11. 00
- 104 K. E. VII Plate Proofs. Set of 8 imperf. proofs on thick card, consisting of 3d (black), 4d (green), 5d (black), 6d (carmine), 8d (black), 1/- (3, one each in brown, pale carmine and carmine-lake). A delightful introduction to your 'Edwards'. The 8 proofs £27. 50
- 105 K. E. VII Plate Blocks. It is not generally known that in the Edward 2d, 3d, 6d, 8d and 1/- (i. e. those values for which more than one printing plate was supplied), "numbers" in the form of varying numbers of dots were added to the plates for identification purposes, and these dots were reproduced in the bottom selvages of printed sheets. In all cases, selvedge blocks showing these dots - plate blocks - are rare. We can offer the following, all in brilliant mint blocks of 4 with bottom selvage:
 (a) 2d Rosy Mauve with "two-dot" plate marking £42. 50
 (b) 2d Mauve with "four-dot" plate marking £42. 50
 (c) 3d Chestnut (perf. 14 x 14½) with "three-dot" plate marking £42. 50
- 106 1d Dominion. Superb mint block of 4 on Wiggins Teape paper (J8a). In our experience, mint copies of this particular issue are very much scarcer than their valuation would suggest. The block £3. 00
- 107 K. G. V "Colour Print". One of a whole series of colour trials printed for this issue, this is an imperf. copy of the 4d value in a deep orange-yellow (very similar to the colour finally chosen for the issued stamp), overprinted 'COLOUR PRINT' in black £8. 25
- 108 K. G. V 4d Rarity. Vertical pair in deep purple, partly imperforate, from plate 44 (K5gZ). From one of the four sheets, issued at Auckland, in which a strike of the comb perforating head was completely omitted from the fifth horizontal row. The rare pair, having the lower stamp normally perforated 14 x 14½ at sides and bottom, imperf. at top, while the upper stamp is imperf. at sides and bottom, and normally perforated at top. The rare variety pair, superfine mint £110. 00

- 109 K. G. V 1/- Imperf. Variety. A magnificent mint horizontal pair in orange-vermilion, being the scarce variety completely imperforate (K12bX). The imperf. pair £45. 00
- 110 K. G. V ½d Booklet Plate Proof. Imperf. pane of 6, with selvedge bars at both sides, printed in black on thick glazed unwatermarked paper. Superb condition. £17. 50
- 111 (a) 1d Field Marshal. Set of mint copies of the scarce reversed watermark issue (K15c) in the three basic shades - or colours, rather - of rose-carmine, scarlet and claret. A truly delightful trio £16. 50
- (b) As above. Marginal mint block of 4 in the unmistakably different scarlet. A little off-centre as usual, otherwise magnificent. The scarlet block £25. 00
- (c) As above. Single copies in scarlet. Each, mint £6. 50
- 112 1d Kiwi. The scarce 'registered' watermark issue, perf. $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ (L2b), offered in not one, but two plate blocks of 4 - with plate no. B2, of course - one of which is perforated from left to right, and the other right to left. The latter perforation is abnormal, and was first reported only two years or so ago. Only a tiny handful of copies has been seen; just two other plate blocks are known to us. The pair of plate blocks, rare and in superlative mint condition £57. 50

(Note: We shall be pleased to consider orders for either block individually - the 'normal' priced at £22. 50, the 'abnormal' at £37. 50)
- 113 3/- Mt Egmont. Mint positional block of 4, perf. $14\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$, including the major centre-plate re-entry at R9/4, with extensive doubling of the sky and hillside at the right (LV14L). The variety block £11. 50
- 114 K. G. VI 1d Green. Perfect mint copy on fine VM paper with variety watermark inverted (M2cZ). Scarce and seldom offered £2. 75
- 115 (a) Q. E. 2½d on 3d Provisional. Perfect unhinged mint marginal block of 6, in which the surcharge settings are respectively: upper row - narrow, wide, narrow; lower row - wide, wide, narrow. Thus in this one block there are three quite independent "wide-and-narrow" se-tenant pairs (one vertical and two horizontal). The block as described £15. 50
- (b) As above. Horizontal pair showing the wide and narrow settings se-tenant (N42aY). Perfect mint £5. 50
- (c) As above. "Wide-and-narrow" settings se-tenant, but in a vertical pair (N42aZ), again mint, unhinged £4. 15
- (d) As above. Plate block of 4 from plate 17 in the "abnormal" form (i. e. with the narrow setting of the surcharge on all four stamps). Superb mint, and rare £37. 50
- 116 (a) 1960 Pictorial Coil Pairs. Complete set of pairs with red numbers 2d - 1/9 (both), including pairs on chalky paper of the 3d - a genuine rarity, this one - and the 6d. The set of 13 counter coil pairs, finest mint, and with exceptionally good perfs. throughout £27. 50

- 116 (b) As above. 1/9 bistre coil pair, with red number, (OC15b) in which the left hand stamp - R1/16 from the printed sheet - shows a prominent "pylon on skyline". Not a constant variety, but we have seen a number of examples, so it must have persisted for part of the printing. The variety coil pair £7. 50
- 117 (a) 1967 Pictorial Coil Pairs. Complete set of 9 numbered pairs (2½c, 3c, 4c, 6c, 8c, 10c, 15c, both 20c). Brilliant mint, each pair selected for good perfs. The set £7. 80
- (b) As above. 2½c pair (always an elusive value, even when it was current), the upper stamp being R20/4 and showing the constant plate variety "Accent on A of LAND" from blue plate 2B. The variety coil pair, once more with full perfs. all round £1. 50
- 118 (a) 1970 10c Coat of Arms. Counter coil pair with variety "One Stamp Wmk Inverted" (PC12aZ), mint and scarce £9. 50
- (b) As above. Another counter coil pair, in which both stamps have inverted watermark. We know of only one other similar pair (which incidentally, like the pair now offered, also has coil no. 9). The rare variety pair, mint £22. 50
- 119 (a) 75c Watermarked Booklet. Complete booklet from position no. 5 (as listed in the Shaw/Capill study of the booklet plates) - one of the two positions (the other is no. 21) in which the 4c panes showed flaws on the light green plate which were subsequently retouched. The point of great interest in the booklet here offered is that one of the 4c panes has (on stamp 1) the flaw state, and the other has the retouch - a delightful combination not previously recorded. The booklet £22. 50
- (b) As above. Two 4c booklet panes (from different booklets, one with the flaw and one with the retouch as mentioned above. The flaw-and-retouch pair of panes, mint £5. 75
- 120 1925 Dunedin Exhibition. Complete set ½d - 4d, plus an extra copy of the 4d with the catalogued R10/1 'POSTAGE' variety (guaranteed, of course!) The set of 4 (S. G. 536-538a), all perfect unhinged mint £30. 00
- 121 1959 Marlborough Centennial 2d. Two positional blocks of 6, including R14/3 in both states, i. e. (i) Retouched without "thumbprint" (the scarce original state) and (ii) Further retouched, with "thumbprint". Full details of this interesting variety are given in Vol. 4 of the Handbooks (page 280). The two blocks, mint £11. 00
- 122 1965 Comm. Parliamentary Conference. Complete set of 4 plate blocks. The 4d (2) and 9d are in blocks of 4 as listed; the 2/- is in block of 6 to include the R10/10 "Retouch in harbour", the only plate variety of any consequence in this value. The set of 4 mint blocks - always elusive £16. 50
- 123 1946 Health 2d + 1d. Mint copy with the variety Blurred Centre, in the characteristic golden shade (T18bZ). Supplied with a normal stamp for comparison. £2. 75
- 124 1949 Health 2d + 1d. Corner block of 4 including the constant R1/2 "No stop after 1d" variety, with another retouch (also constant) immediately above the figure 1. The story goes that in making this latter repair to the plate, the tradesman concerned mistakenly took the stop after 1d to be another flaw, and touched it out too. Hence the variety! The block .. £1. 65

- 125 1950 Health 2d + 1d. Corner block of 4 (with sheet serial number) with variety Watermark Inverted. One of the scarcer Health "inverts".
The block, mint unhinged £12. 50
- 126 (a) Postage Dues. A near-complete collection of 46 stamps. Every C. P. Catalogue number is represented bar three (Y9a, Y10a and Y15g - we will gladly give priority on the waiting list for these to the buyer if desired). Such a set is seldom if ever offered in these much-underestimated issues, which include quite a number of genuinely very scarce stamps. Current Catalogue value is well in excess of \$180, and condition is good to very fine mint throughout. The 46 "Dues" £84. 50
- (b) As above. Mint corner blocks of 4 (each with sheet serial no.) of the First Type $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d with large 'D' and small 'N. Z.' (Y8a, Y9a). Of additional interest is the fact that all stamps in the $\frac{1}{2}$ d block have a distinct offset impression of the frame on the reverse, while both blocks show the constant R10/6 frame plate variety "Stop after DUE almost totally missing". The two blocks £7. 50
- 127 (a) Long Fiscal 2/- 'Official'. Mint copy on De La Rue paper, perf. 14 (ZO2f) £2. 20
- (b) As above. Mint pair on Cowan paper, perf. $14\frac{1}{2}$ x 14, one stamp being the variety "No stop after OFFICIAL". A rare pair, of absolutely brilliant appearance, which is in no way marred by one or two very faint stains on the reverse £15. 00
- 128 Long Fiscal 5/- 'Official'. Set of three mint - one perf. 14, and two perf. $14\frac{1}{2}$ x 14, one of which is the "No stop after OFFICIAL" variety. The three 5/- Officials, complete per the C. P. Catalogue listing £17. 50
- 129 $\frac{1}{3}$ Arms Type. The scarce one on Wiggins Teape paper with multiple watermark upright (C. P. Z30f, S. G. 634b). Superfine mint (unhinged)... £8. 25
- 130 £1 Arms Type. Fine mint copy of the 1958 issue on unsurfaced (ordinary) paper, easily identifiable by the neat, clean-cut perfs. and horizontal mesh paper (C. P. Z42e, S. G. 646a) £12. 50
- 131 $\frac{3}{6}$ on $\frac{3}{6}$ Arms Type. Two mint copies, with multiple watermark upright, one each of the two types "lettering with and without serifs" (C. P. Z53 b/d, S. G. 657/657a) £6. 50
- 132 \$4 - \$10 Arms Types. Complete set of 4 values with the original line perf. 14 (and with wmk sideways inverted). The set of 4, perfect mint .. £32. 50
- EXCEPTIONAL USED**
- 133 (a) First Pictorials - London Prints. A fine page of 31 stamps, including all values to 1/-, and showing an excellent range of shades and perfs, with $\frac{1}{2}$ d (4), 1d (8, incl. one with re-entry), 2d (3), $2\frac{1}{2}$ d Wakatipu (2, exceptional copies, very scarce used), $2\frac{1}{2}$ d Wakatipu (2, one with re-entry), 3d, 4d (3, one with big re-entry), 5d (3), 6d, 8d, 9d, 1/- (2) £19. 50
- (b) As above. Three magnificent shades of the 'London' 5d, all superfine used £4. 50
- 134 First Pictorials - No. Wmk, Perf. 11. Superb coverage of all values, with $2\frac{1}{2}$ d (3 shades), 3d (2), 4d (4), 5d (2), 6d green (2, incl. a lovely yellow-green), 6d red (3), 8d (2), 9d (2), 1/- (4), 2/- (3) and 5/-. All shades included are, without exception, really glorious contrasts. The set of 29 used £45. 00

- 135 First Pictorials- Single-Lined Wmk, Perf. 11. Another marvellously comprehensive display, with shades. Included are the 2½d (2), 3d (3), 4d (2), 5d (3), 6d (7 glorious shades, incl. one with letters wmk), 8d (2), 9d, 1/- (5), 2/- (2), 5/- (wmk. upright). One of the 2/- copies is fiscally cancelled, and is not reckoned in the price. The 28 stamps, used £35. 00
- 136 (a) First Pictorials- Double-Lined Wmk, Perf. 11. No less than 4 shades of the 1d, 5 of the 1½d and 6 of the 2d are included in this set. For good measure, three shades each of the Pirie paper ½d Mt Cook and 1d Universal are also included, making a set of 21 used £3. 75
- (b) As above. A delightful set of five 1½d's, all perf. 11 (E4a), including a fine dated copy in the scarce brown shade (S. G. 300), and four 'chestnuts', ranging in shade from deep reddish to very pale. The palest copy is cancelled by a superb c. d. s. of Sydney dated Dec. 29, 1905, and another shows a complete strike of the Dunedin Nth T. P. O. datestamp of May 8, 1902. The five used £12. 50
- 137 First Pictorials - Perf. 14. Set of 29 used, in content and quality similar to the previous few lots, and including 1½d, 2d (3), 2½d (3), 3d (3), 4d (7), 5d (2), 6d (3), 8d, 9d, 1/- (3) and 2/- (2) £17. 50
- 138 First Pictorials- 1907-08 Issues. Near-complete coverage of the "redrawn" designs with, in perf. 14, the ½d (2), 3d, 6d (3); in perf. 14x13-13½, ½d, 3d (2), 4d, 6d, 1/-; and in perf. 14x15, ½d, 1d, 3d (2), 6d, 1/-. The 18 used stamps (between S. G. 428-446) £22. 50

PRESENTATION PACKS

1974 Commonwealth Games. The complete set of 5 values in the attractive colourful and informative special Souvenir Pack issued by the N. Z. P. O. Post paid £1. 50

1975 Collector's Pack. All the non-definitive issues from the Offshore Islands of Dec. 1974 to the Christmas stamps of Oct. 1975 (24 stamps), again attractively presented in an officially produced folder. Post paid £2. 85

Postal Stationery Pack. Another official production, with examples of all current N. Z. postal stationery (8 items) in a neat coloured folder. Post paid 85p

1975 ROSES 1c - 9c

The first series of the new definitives (issued 26/11/75) maintains the very high standards of design and printing to which N. Z. collectors have become accustomed. A most attractive set !

	Mint Single	Mint block of 4	Plate block 1A or 1B, each
1c 'Sterling Silver'	2p	5p	10p
2c 'Lilli Marlene'	2p	7p	19p
3c 'Queen Elizabeth'	3p	11p	28p
4c 'Super Star'	4p	14p	37p
5c 'Diamond Jubilee'	5p	18p	46p
6c 'Cresset'	5p	20p	56p
7c 'Michele Meilland'	6p	24p	64p
8c 'Josephine Bruce'	7p	28p	74p
9c 'Iceberg'	8p	32p	82p

One of each value, 9 mint stamps	39p
9 mint blocks of 4 (one of each value)	£1. 50
Complete set of 18 plate/imprint blocks (two of each value) of 10 stamps each	£7. 85
One plate/imprint block of each value (9 blocks) of 10 stamps each	£4. 00
Illustrated First Day Cover (Wanganui postmark)	50p