

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N. Z. NOTES & COMMENT

by Colin Hamilton

½d Edward "OFFICIAL" As we go to press (mid-May), there have been no new reports of copies with the overprint reading downwards. However, since writing the note which appeared in last month's Bulletin, I have now (thanks to Mr. R. C. R. Henderson of Barnet), seen one of the two mentioned examples, and as will become clear later, it provides another possible line of inquiry.

Mr. Henderson explains that about 40 years ago he purchased, from a missionary society in this country, a crate full of sundry N. Z. material ("Junk" was the word he actually used!), and this was the source of his find. Eventually, the stamp was submitted to the Expert Committee of the R. P. S., London, who did not give an adverse opinion but (quite reasonably in the circumstances) felt unable to certify it, on the grounds of "insufficient evidence or reference material".

The copy is a used one (with Napier c.d.s. of 2 FE 11), and the overprint has the following peculiarities:

- (a) The upper bar of the first F is broken near its right hand extremity.
- (b) A thin, broken line of extra colour between CI. The line starts close to the midpoint of the I and runs obliquely downwards to the left before curving back towards the foot of the I.
- (c) The base of the full-stop lies noticeably below the base of the letter L (usually these are more or less in alignment).

Of these, (c) would be constant, and (a) and (b) have the appearance of being flaws of at least a semi-constant nature. So assuming the overprint to be genuine, it is possible (indeed probable) that examples of the 'normal' ½d Official exist showing all of these characteristics. If one or more such copies could be located, they would obviously form strong corroborating evidence for the variety. Can anyone help? Already the background history of Mr. Henderson's copy is favourable, but any additional evidence which can be found would be invaluable.

As yet, the other copy mentioned in last month's note remains no more than an unconfirmed report, but I am still hopeful that it may be made available for examination.

7c Leather Jacket. In the N.Z. Newsletter of October 1974, I described an unusual variety of the 8c John Dory – unusual in that a strip of stamps was printed on partly unsurfaced paper, the defect having the appearance of a doctor blade flaw in the surfacing process (Doctor blade flaws as we normally understand them are, of course, found not infrequently on photogravure-printed stamps, but they are faults which occur during the printing process, and they show as a single band, or a series of parallel bands, either coloured or uncoloured).

Now Mr. Les Marx has shown me a 7c Leather Jacket with an even more unusual variety. The stamp (a used one on unwatermarked paper), has a vertical strip of surfacing, some 4mm wide, on the unprinted side of the paper, and Mr. Marx wonders how it might have come about. That's a good question! In putting forward a possible explanation, I assume (as I did when discussing the 8c that the surfacing compound is applied by a system of rollers or cylinders— in principle not unlike a single-colour printing press, except that the "ink" is replaced by the surfacing agent, and the "printing cylinder" applies a uniform, all-over coating. Given that that, in simple terms, is the method employed, Mr. Marx's variety could be the surfacing equivalent of a partial offset impression, such as occurs from time to time in printing, when an area of the pressure cylinder comes into direct contact with the inked printing cylinders.

A further peculiarity of the stamp was that, when the printed side of the paper was touched with silver, there was a negative reaction. This might lead one to the conclusion that the stamp was a more complicated variety, best described as "printed on the unsurfaced side of paper with defective surfacing". But in a used copy I don't think a negative 'silver test' can be relied on absolutely, particularly when other evidence (specifically the quality of the print and appearance of the colours of the inks) seems to be not notably different from normal, as was the case here. So I come back to my original suggestion that it is possibly an example of a "surfacing offset". But I am prepared to be shot down in flames by someone who has more intimate knowledge of paper manufacture than I have !

1940 CENTENNIALS

<u>C.P.</u>	<u>S.G.</u>		<u>Mint</u>	<u>Used</u>	<u>C.P.</u>	<u>S.G.</u>		<u>Mint</u>	<u>Used</u>
S26a	609	½d	7p	7p	S33a	616	5d	37p	31p
S27a	610	1d	10p	7p	S34a	617	6d	62p	10p
S28a	611	1½d	10p	7p	S35a	618	7d	95p	£1.25
S29a	612	2d	10p	7p	S35b	619	8d	95p	45p
S30a	613	2½d	10p	7p	S36a	620	9d	£2.20	95p
S31a	614	3d	37p	13p	S37a	662	10p on 1½d	25p	10p
S32a	615	4d	37p	10p	S38a	621	1/-	£2.80	37p
Do., Two superb shades			£1						

Set of 14 £9.00 £3.85

Imprint/Plates (all mint blocks of 4 unless otherwise stated).

½d Plate 1L or 2L, each	32p
1d Plate C1	48p
Plate A1, B1, D1 or D2 (each with pair of stamps attached), each	30p
1½d Plate A1, A2 or C2, each	48p
2d Plate A2	60p
2½d Plate A1	48p
3d Plate A1	£1.75
5d Plate A1	£1.75
6d Plate A1	£3.15
7d Plate A1	£4.50

8d Plate A1	£4.75
9d Plate B1 (re-inserted '1')	£25.00
10d on 1½d. Plate A2, C1 or C2, each	£1.00
1/- Plate A1 (in strip of 4)	£14.75

OFFICIALS

C.P.	S.G.		Mint	Used	C.P.	S.G.		Mint	Used
S026a	0141	½d	13p	13p	S032a	0147	4d	62p	45p
S027a	0142	1d	13p	13p	S034a	0148	6d	£1.55	95p
S028a	0143	1½d	25p	19p	S035b	0149	8d	£1.55	£1.55
S029a	0144	2d	19p	13p	S036a	0150	9d	£1.10	95p
S030a	0145	2½d	13p	31p	S038a	0151	1/-	£5.00	£1.85
S031a	0146	3d	62p	45p					

Set of 11	£10.50	£6.75
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Imprint/Plates (all mint blocks of 4).

½d Plate 1L or 1T, each	60p
Plate 2T (slight gum defect, but scarcer)	£1.25
1d Plate A2 or B2, each	60p
1½d Plate A1	95p
Plate C1	£1.25
2d Plate H9 (gum defects, but fine appearance). Cat. \$5	£1.00
2½d Plate A1	60p
4d Plate A1	£3.75
9d Plate A1	£6.25

Official "Joined FF" Varieties (all in pair with normal, unless otherwise stated).

½d, finest used	£6.75
1d, perfect mint. Cat. \$10, special offer at less than half price	£3.00
1d, finest used	£6.75
2½d, finest used	£6.75
3d, mint	£6.25
3d, mint (single stamp with selvage)	£5.75
3d, finest used	£6.75
4d, finest used	£6.75
6d, finest used	£6.75
8d, finest used	£6.75

SECOND. PICTORIALS MISCELLANY

- | | | |
|--------|---|-------|
| 601 | <u>1d Kiwi</u> . Inverted watermark block of 6, with bottom selvage and showing the B3 plate number, from the multiple watermark printing (L2dZ). Mint | 75p |
| 602 | <u>1½d Maori Cooking, multiple watermark</u> (L3d). Plate 1A block of four (no side selvage) including the R9/2 and 10/2 "string" re-entries. Cat. £3.60 | £2.50 |
| 603 | <u>2d Whare</u> , coarse paper (L4f). Four plate blocks of 4 (all pl. no. 5) each in a markedly different shade of orange. An unusual and attractive page of shades | £2.00 |
| 604(a) | <u>4d Mitre Peak</u> . Three mint (various issues) showing the frame plate no. 1 retouches to I of MITRE at R7/8, 7/10 and 8/10. The variety set of 3 | £2.00 |

- (b) As above. A similar set of 3, but used £1.50
- (c) As above. Mint single (L7a or b, state preference) including R7/8 retouch 60p
- (d) As above. Corner mint copy (L7b) with R8/10 retouch 60p
- 605 5d Swordfish, multiple wmk, perf. 13-14x13½ (L8c). A 'single-issue' collection, including two mint singles in differing shades, a used copy, mint block of four and a plate block of four. A fine album page in the making, Cat. £26+ and a bargain at £15.00
- 606 6d Harvesting, coarse paper (L9e). Plate block of 4 (pl. no. 3), mint 65p
- 607 1/- Tui, multiple wmk, perf. 14x13½, fine paper (L12b). Plate block of 4 (pl. no. A1), mint £3.00
- 608 1/- Tui, coarse paper (L12d). Mint plate block of 4 65p
- 609 2/- Captain Cook, COOK Flaw R1/4 (LV13a). This naked eye flaw survived throughout the life of plate 1, even though many impressions were re-entered and extensive retouching was carried out on the plate. We can offer the following:-
- (a) Single wmk, perf. 13½x14 (L13b), used £7.60
- (b) Multiple wmk, perf. 13-14x13½ (L13c) unmounted mint single (Cat.£7) £5.00
- (c) Multiple wmk, perf. 13½x14 (L13d), used - the scarce one £15.85
- (d) Perf. 12½, coarse paper (L13f), mint copy with top selvage £5.70
- 610 2/- Captain Cook, R8/2 "Coconuts" Flaw. This flaw (as illustrated in our Catalogue) is represented by a used single of the scarce multiple wmk perf 13½x14 (L13d). Also included is a used perf. 12½, coarse paper copy (L13f) with the subsequent retouch. The flaw and retouch pair of used stamps £20.00
- 611 2/- Captain Cook, R9/2 "Bow" Flaw. Once again a flaw and retouch pair, used. The flaw, with two dots over the bow, is on L13d (LV13f) whilst the retouch is on L13e (LV13g). The superb variety pair of stamps £20.00
- 612(a) 2/- Captain Cook, perf. 13¼ x13½ (L13g). Heavy blurred impression from plate 3 (L13gW). Mint.....£1.90 used 30p
- (b) As above. Mint plate no. 2 block of four £7.00
- (c) As above. Blocks of four from plates 1, 2 and 3 together with an illustration of the "rigging" features which enable stamps from the three plates to be distinguished. The three mint blocks of four £24.00
- 613 3/- Mt. Egmont, multiple wmk, perf. 13-14x13½ (L14d). The two Catalogued shades, fine mint singles £5.00

QUEEN ELIZABETH

- 614 1½d Original Design (N3a). Complete set of four imprint/plate blocks, with pl. nos. 11, 12, 13 and 14. The four mint blocks (of six stamps each) £3.00

- 615 2d Original Design (N4a). All four basic plate blocks (15, 16, 17, 18) are included in this set, mint £2.00
- 616 3d Original Design (N5a). The two scarcer plates (32 and 33), the stamps being of course die lb. Illustrations of both die 1a and 1b provided, if required. The two plate blocks, mint £7.50
- 617 9d - 1/9. Five blocks of four, each with printers imprint. Included are 9d, 1/-, 1/6 and both papers of the 1/9. The set of five imprint blocks, mint £14.00
- 618(a) 1/- (N10a). All four plate combinations (1A1A, 1B1B, 1A2A, 1B2B), each in a block of 12 (6x2) and thus also including the printers imprint. Three of the four also show plate varieties (full annotation supplied). The four big blocks, mint £15.00
- (b) As above. A mint collection of 10 marginal pieces (four blocks of 6, five blocks of 4, and a pair) all showing frame or centre varieties. Again full details included. The variety collection of 46 stamps £20.00
- 619 2d 'Large Figures' (N33a). Six plate/imprint blocks (all on the original paper), includes plate nos. 3 (no dot and dot), 4, 5 (no dot and dot) and 6. The set, mint £4.75
- 620 6d 'Large Figures' (N36a). The two listed plate/imprint blocks, mint £3.00
- 621(a) 8d Light Brown (N37a). A key stamp, this. Mint single £3.00
- (b) As above. Perfect mint block of 4 £12.50
- (c) As above. Imprint/plate block of 6 stamps, mint £25.00
- (d) As above. Imprint/plate block of 4 stamps, mint £18.50

SECOND SIDEFACES

- 622 8d Die Proof. Printed in black on unsurfaced white card (card size 38mm x 78mm). One or two very minor stain spots, well clear of the die impression, otherwise fresh and fine. The rare die-proof £95.00
- 623 Collection. A comprehensive specialised collection of the 1d, 2d and 6d values (i.e. the three values in which there were alterations to the dies). In addition to the die differences, changes of paper, perf and shade are thoroughly represented, as are plate varieties, and there is much annotation, with illustrations. The collection is mainly used, but among the mint there is a quite superlative block of 27 of the 1d perf. 11. The fine lot of 236 stamps, mounted on 20 album leaves. Minimum Cat. \$350 £125.00

KING EDWARD VII COLOUR TRIALS

- 624 Set of 3 (4d in deep yellow-green, 8d in deep greyish blue, 1/- in bright maroon), each printed on unsurfaced white card, imperf. A superb introductory page to any collection of Edwards. The three colour trials £42.50

1906 CHRISTCHURCH EXHIBITION PROOF MATERIAL

Rare and desirable— all items offered are listed in the 'Proofs' chapter of Volume 1 of "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand".

- 625(a) 3d Essay. Printed in brown on white unwatermarked paper, imperf. Design of the vignette closely resembles that of the issued stamp, but the frame varies in several respects, including overall size, which is smaller than in the issued stamp £90.00
- (b) As above. The same design in brick-red, but printed in reverse (i.e. as a mirror-image). Horizontal crease (not noticeable from front), but a very attractive item £85.00
- 626 3d Plate Proof. Printed in black on thick glazed unwatermarked paper, imperf., from the plates used for printing the issued stamps £75.00
- 627 3d Die Proof. A composite die-proof of the approved design. The frame (in dull ultramarine) is printed on thick card, while the vignette, printed in bright chestnut, is printed on thin paper and pasted into position. Dimensions of the card are 50mmx32mm approx. The die proof £300.00
- 628 6d Essay. Printed in deep pink on white unwatermarked paper, imperf. As in lot 625 (a) above, the vignette design is almost identical to that of the issued stamp, but the frame shows several differences £90.00
- 629 6d Die Proof. Vignette printed in bright mauve, frame in deep olive green— otherwise specification is as for the 3d die proof (lot 627 above). A magnificent item £325.00

1913 AUCKLAND EXHIBITION

- 630(a) Used set. The four values, each one neatly and lightly cancelled with the Exhibition c.d.s. The ½d has a diagonal crease (not too obtrusive) — the other values are fine, and we really do mean fine. Used "Aucklands", on the rare occasions they do turn up, tend to have rather messy postmarks, but this set justifies the description "fine used" even as it is applied to very recent issues. The rare and highly desirable set £240.00
- (b) Mint set. As a worthy companion for the above, we have available a fine mint set, at £175.00

631

1946 PEACE 3d — TAIL FIN RETOUCHES

Very similar retouches to the tail of the flying boat are found on R2/4 (from centre plate 42883), and on R3/2 (from centre plate 42796). Fortunately these two varieties — and excellent naked-eye examples of retouching they are — are readily identifiable from each other, even when not in positional blocks. R2/4, in addition to the tail retouch, invariably has an extra area of shading above and around the starboard wing tip of the same aeroplane. This is never present on R3/2. Our offer, then, is of these two fine varieties, at first sight so alike, but

clearly differentiable, each being the bottom right hand stamp in a mint block of

4. The pair of blocks (SV43a and b) £4.50

Note: For those collectors who prefer positional blocks, we can offer the R3/2 retouch
in mint corner block of 6, at £2.50

632

1929 HEALTH

A superlative used block of 4, clean, fresh, well-centred, and with neat central
c.d.s. The used block £37.50

1933 HEALTH

Many of the 'Pathway' stamps have individual characteristics which enable them to be assigned to their sheet positions. All the items offered below can be readily plated, but if the buyer wishes, we will supply the necessary details on request. To avoid repetition, all are brilliant unmounted mint.

- 633 (a) Marginal block of 8 £85.00
(b) Corner block of 4 £45.00
(c) Block of 4, non marginal £42.50
(d) Pair, non marginal £18.75

634

1935 AIR MAIL COVER

Registered cover from NZ to UK, via Australia, bearing three 6d Silver Jubilee and a 3d Air Mail stamp of the 1935 issue. The stamps are cancelled by the Wellington c.d.s. of 7th May 1935 (the first day of issue of the Jubilee stamps), and the cover has a UK backstamp of 27th May. Condition superb. The main value lies of course in the 6d Jubilees — fine used, they are extremely scarce and excellent buying. The cover £55.00

635

Q. V. LONG FISCALS MINT

Short set of 5 (2/-, 2/6, 3/-, 4/-, 5/-), previously hinged, but exceptionally fine and fresh, and seldom available thus. The set of 5 Long Fiscals £22.50

636

"OFFICIALS" COLLECTION

A collection of 79 stamps (71 mint, 8 used), covering all New Zealand "Official" issues, 1907 — 1963, mounted on S. G. one-country album leaves. Only three stamps (£1 Long Fiscal, 5/- Arms vertical overprint, and K.G. VI 1½d brown) are required for absolute completion on a simplified basis, and condition — even among the earlier issues — is generally exceptionally good. Current Catalogue value of the collection is £325+, and rising fast, so the purchaser of this lot gets what surely must be one of the bargains of the year.

The Officials collection £225.00

RECENT ISSUES

30c Park. New plate 4a4a4a4a. Unlike recent printings (which have been perf. 14 all round), stamps from this latest plate have reverted to the original perf. $13\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$, and the shades of the sky and hills in particular, are much darker than in recent printings.

Imprint/plate block of 6 stamps	£1.80
Single stamp, mint	29p

80c Booklet. Containing one pane of 10 x 8c "Josephine Bruce" Rose stamps (5x2), perf. $14\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{4}$ 80p

£1 Booklet. Containing one pane of 10x10c "Coat of Arms" stamps on unwatermarked paper with bluish gum (again 5x2)

Note: These new booklets, like some recent G.B. issues, have neither stitching nor stapling. The stamps are gummed between the covers by means of a narrow selvedge at the left. Unlike the G.B. issues, however, these booklets have been given attractive covers – the 80c is especially appealing to the eye.

STOP PRESS – NEW PROVISIONAL ISSUES

About mid-April the 3c and 4c 'Moth' stamps, surcharged 7c and 8c respectively, appeared in rolls of 400 each, without prior publicity. Titled 'Postafix Rolls', these coils were made up specifically for dispensing from devices of that name, which are available (as an alternative to meters) to large users of mail in N.Z. Apparently none of the stamps currently on issue will fit these devices, hence the necessity to surcharge the obsolete small size 'Moths'. There was no official date of issue, but we understand that the 7c first became available on 21st April, and the 8c on 22nd April (these dates may be subject to revision). All stamps we have seen to date are on unwatermarked paper, and with the original 'white' gum.



7c on 3c Lichen Moth.

Mint single	9p
Strip of 4	36p

8c on 4c Puriri Moth

Mint single	10p
Strip of 4	40p

