

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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FIRST PICTORIAL 3d - A MAJOR UNRECORDED VARIETY

by Colin Hamilton

To the best of my knowledge there has been no recorded instance of the 3d Huias with compound perforations (although mixed perms exist in the Cowan watermarked paper issue of 1906). Furthermore I know of no record of the use of a machine gauging 14 in the perforating of any value of the First Local Print Pictorials, that is the issues of 1899-1902 on unwatermarked paper.

Evidence of either of the above forms would of itself be remarkable, three-quarters of a century after the currency of the issue, but the discovery of a stamp embodying both is verging on the incredible. Yet I have recently seen just such a stamp - a First Local Print 3d, perforated 11 x 14 regular compound.

Of course an item of such potential philatelic importance requires close and critical examination from every possible point of view:

- (i) The paper. This is absolutely typical of one of the several unwatermarked grades of the period, and is certainly much too thick and soft to be from an unwatermarked portion of the selvage of a sheet of the later Cowan paper (see also iii below)
- (ii) The colour and quality of the print. Again it is totally typical of the unwatermarked issues.
- (iii) The postmark (the copy is a used one). Coin circle type of Otahuhu. Once again precisely what one might expect, and the date ?7 JE 02, is especially significant for two reasons. Firstly, it conclusively "ties" the stamp to the unwatermarked paper era, since the Cowan watermarked paper 3d was not issued until August 1902. The second reason I will deal with in (iv) below.
- (iv) The perforations themselves. Perhaps most important of all, and they too satisfy the most critical eye. In particular the vertical perms - those gauging 14 - are neat and clean-cut, and it is in this connection that the date again assumes a special relevance. The '14' machines first came into use about November 1901, and the perforations of the earliest issued stamps (the 'Pirie' paper 1d green Mt Cook and 1d Universal, F1b and G2b) have this same neat and clean-cut appearance, whereas in all stamps subsequently perforated by these machines, the perms were generally noticeably ragged.
- (v) General appearance. Again this is satisfactory, from the point of view of

one who is seeking to question authenticity. The stamp is neither particularly well-centred, nor wildly off-centre. It is neither outstandingly pristine clean, nor notably grubby or tatty. Its postmark carries not the slightest suggestion of 'c.t.o.' or 'per favour'. In short it is everything one would expect of a perfectly genuine stamp, even to the extent of having a couple of shortish perfs and a faint vertical crease.

So all things considered, recognition of this so far unique stamp by a major new Catalogue listing is in my opinion fully justified - a view, incidentally, shared by our Catalogue Editor, Mr. Campbell Paterson, who has examined the stamp.

How did it come about? I offer a possible explanation - that the stamp came from a sheet which was originally perf 11 x imperf vertically (a variety which it should be noted is known to exist on E9b); that the defect was noticed some time later, but before the sheet was issued; that the sheet was withheld for the perforating to be completed - all at a time (late 1901 or early 1902) when the '14' machines, still nearly new, were engaged in the perforating of the Pirie paper 1d and 1d. Since almost certainly only a single sheet was involved it would obviously not, I suggest, be worth the trouble of setting up another (11-gauge) head, hence the sheet would be run through the machine in use.

CHALON HEADS

A rare chance to fill some gaps. Do not be put off by the apparently throwaway prices - although not all top quality, many of the items offered are attractive copies and very collectable.

1858-62 — Richardson White Unwatermarked Paper.

101	<u>S.G. 8 1d Dull Orange.</u> Four margins, but grubby and with defects on back. Spacefiller	£2. 50
102	<u>S.G. 8a 2d Deep Ultramarine.</u> Not-so-fine copy in this rare shade, but glorious colour	£5. 00
103	<u>S.G. 9 2d Pale Blue .</u> Good, four margined copy, light cancel	£12. 50
104	<u>S.G. 11 2d Deep Dull Blue.</u> Three good margins, close at left. Lovely appearance, but thinned, hence	£4. 50
105	<u>S.G. 12 6d Bistre-Brown.</u> Two margins, superb colour, Wanganui c.d.s. Aug 15 1862	£6. 50
106	<u>S.G. 13 6d Brown.</u> Four margins, light mark, fresh colour, but 4mm tear allows	£2. 50
107	<u>S.G. 16 1/- Dull Emerald Green.</u> Small copy, with margins in places. Cancel well clear of head, and lovely appearance	£8. 50

1862 — Davies Prints on Large Star Watermarked Paper.

108	<u>S.G. 34 1d Vermilion.</u> Four margins, lovely colour and appearance. Small thinning on back	£12. 50
109	<u>S.G. 34 As above.</u> Frame just touched at left, otherwise margins all round. No hidden defects	£22. 50

110	<u>S. G. 34 As above.</u> Two margins, rather heavy mark, but superb colour ..	£8. 00
111	<u>S. G. 36 2d Deep Blue.</u> Early print from unworn plate. Four margins, light mark, fresh and fine	£12. 75
112	<u>S. G. 39 2d Blue.</u> Another fine copy (four margins) but a late print showing advanced plate wear	£12. 75
113	<u>- 2d Blue.</u> Remarkable set of six (between S. G. 36 - 39), showing a magnificent range of shades, and the development of wear in the plate, from nil to advanced wear. Included is a reasonable copy of the scarce and distinctive slate-blue (S. G. 37). The reference set of 6, condition varies from fair to good used	£35. 00
114	<u>S. G. 40 3d Brown-Lilac.</u> Fair to good used copy, three good margins, shaved at right. Superb colour	£15. 00
115	<u>S. G. 40 As above.</u> Fine copy, small but clear margins all round, nicely cancelled by the "5/OTAHUHU/A in oval" mark	£27. 50
116	<u>S. G. 41 As above.</u> Used <u>pair</u> , cut into at left and bottom but very attractive at	£12. 75
117	<u>S. G. 41 As above.</u> Single copy, three good margins, close at top. Lightly cancelled. Nice !	£13. 50
118	<u>S. G. 43 6d Red-Brown.</u> Fine looking four-margin copy, but defects on back, hence	£3. 50
119	(a) <u>S. G. 41-43 6d Black-Brown/Brown/Red-Brown.</u> Brilliant set of the three shades (or rather, the three <u>colours</u>) as listed. All four-margin copies, only defect being a small thinning on the red-brown, which is nonetheless a stamp of quite exceptional appearance. The three 6d's ..	£47. 50
	(b) <u>S. G. 41-43 As above.</u> Another set. Shades equally magnificent, but stamps not quite so fine	£25. 00
120	(a) <u>S. G. 44 1/- Green.</u> Good used copy, uneven margin at left leaves frame just touched at two points, generous margins all other sides	£25. 00
	(b) <u>S. G. 44 As above.</u> Not-so-fine example, useful spacefiller at	£4. 50
121	<u>S. G. 45 1/- Yellow-Green.</u> Good used, three clear margins, touched at left	£22. 50
122	(a) <u>S. G. 46 1/- Deep Green.</u> Four margins, lovely deep shade. Auckland c.d.s.	£32. 50
	(b) <u>S. G. 46 As above</u> Another copy, even deeper shade. Almost as fine, but one corner just shaved	£22. 50
<u>1864 — Watermark 'NZ', Imperf.</u>		
123	<u>S. G. 97 1d Carmine-Vermilion.</u> Sound copy, four small margins, cancel over face	£17. 50
124	<u>S. G. 97 As above.</u> Four-margined copy of outstanding appearance, but some thinning on back allows	£9. 50

125	<u>S. G. 97 As above.</u> Not-so-fine copies, margins in places. Excellent spacefillers at, each	£5. 50
126	<u>S. G. 98 2d Pale Blue.</u> Four small margins, touched at one corner. Very good used	£15. 00
127	<u>S. G. 98 As above.</u> Very similar looking copy, but with watermark inverted-and-reversed. Closed tear	£8. 50
128	<u>S. G. 100 1/- Green.</u> Fine used, four margins (close but clear at right) Beautiful stamp	£35. 00
129	<u>S. G. 100 As above.</u> Another example, four good margins, but heavier mark	£28. 50
130	<u>S. G. 100 As above.</u> Sound, absolutely superb colour and appearance, but only 3¼ margins	£25. 00

Q. E. COMMEMORATIVES

A series of ever-popular "single-issue" collections, from 1953.

131	<u>1953 Coronation.</u> Plate and imprint blocks complete (those of the 2d and 4d values are in combined blocks), plus single sets mint and fine used. 49 mint and 5 used	£10. 75
132	<u>1953 Royal Visit.</u> Imprint/plate blocks complete, plus mint and used sets. 14 mint, 2 used	£1. 25
133	<u>1955 Stamp Centennial .</u> The same thorough coverage - plate numbers and imprints are complete in blocks as Catalogued, and complemented by mint and used sets. 39 mint, 3 used	£4. 25
134	<u>1956 Southland Centennial.</u> Again complete representation of plate numbers, imprints and mint and used singles, with in addition a sheet value block of the 3d showing the prominent plate crack. 43 mint, 3 used	£23. 50
135	<u>1957 Frozen Meat Export.</u> Neither plate nos nor printers imprints exist in this issue, but mint and used sets are supplemented by three copies of the 4d with watermark inverted, two of which show constant plate varieties, and by two additional pairs of the 8d, one stamp in each having a constant variety. 9 mint, 2 used (all varieties fully identified)	£12. 50
136	<u>1957 Plunket Society Jubilee.</u> Mint and used singles, imprint/plate blocks of 4 stamps, with plate nos 1 and 2, plus an extra plate block (of 6) in notably thin, almost pelure, paper. 15 mint, 1 used	£1. 25
137	<u>1958 First Trans-Tasman Flight 30th Anniv.</u> A fine lot, with plate blocks (both), blocks of 4 mint and used, three further mint blocks (of 8, 6 and 4) including seven constant varieties, and last but not least, an attractive full-colour picture (7" x 4½") of the "Southern Cross". The collection (30 mint, 4 used)	£8. 75
138	<u>1958 Nelson City Centennial.</u> Imprint/plate blocks (both plate nos), sheet value block, and singles mint and used	£1. 00
139	<u>1958 Hawkes Bay Centennial.</u> The set in mint and used singles, plate blocks (complete incl. 3d with and without stop) and sheet value blocks. 39 mint, 3 used	£18. 00

140	<u>1959 Pan Pacific Scout Jamboree.</u> Imprint/plate blocks complete (4), plus singles mint and used. 17 mint, 1 used	£1. 25
141	<u>1959 Marlborough Centennial.</u> Content exactly similar to that of the "Hawkes Bay" collection (lot 139 above), but with additional blocks (of 12 and 6) of the 2d showing three plate varieties, one of which is the R14/3 "Thumb Print", and a bottom marginal block of the 3d with a complete extra strike of the comb perforating head, giving a fine example of the variety "Partial Double Perfs". 63 mint, 3 used	£23. 50
142	<u>1959 Red Cross.</u> Plate/imprint block of 4, with mint and used singles	85p
143	<u>1960 Westland Centennial.</u> "Standard" representation again, with plate and imprint blocks complete as Catalogued, and single sets mint and used. 45 mint, 3 used	£22. 50
144	<u>1962 Telegraph Centenary.</u> Mint and used sets, plate, imprint and sheet value blocks complete, plus an interesting study (mint and used) of varieties on the 3d. 29 mint, 12 used	£22. 50
145	<u>1963 Railways Centenary.</u> Imprint/plate blocks complete (the 3d plate IIII is very elusive nowadays), with mint and used sets. 20 mint, 2 used	£12. 75
146	<u>1963 COMPAC.</u> Another issue in which there were no plate numbers nor printer's imprint on the printed sheet, here represented by single stamps mint and used, and two different sheet value blocks. 9 mint, 1 used	£12. 75
147	<u>1964 Road Safety.</u> This collection includes a large corner block (20 stamps) with imprint and plate numbers, and the R3/2 "Apostrophe" flaw in both mint positional block and used single. 29 mint, 3 used	£3. 85
148	(a) <u>1965 ANZAC.</u> A superb lot, in which the varieties are particularly interesting, including no less than three different states of the R10/7 retouch (the so-called "bird on the beach"). Also present are plate/imprint blocks and sheet value blocks complete, and other items include magnificent shade blocks of the 5d. The collection, 82 mint, 4 used	£11. 00
	(b) <u>As above.</u> Two clearly different states of the 4d R10/7 retouch, each in marginal block of 4. The two mint blocks	£1. 30
149	<u>1965 I. T. U. Centenary.</u> Singles mint and used, imprint/plate block, and the R2/4 and 9/6 varieties as Catalogued, each in mint marginal block of 4	£4. 25
150	<u>1965 Sir Winston Churchill.</u> Corner block of 6 with sheet serial number, plus singles mint and used	£2. 50
151	<u>1965 Wellington Government Centenary.</u> Mint and used singles, and a mint imprint/plate block of 8	75p
152	<u>1965 I. C. Y.</u> Imprint block of 4, single stamps mint and used, and an additional mint copy with watermark inverted	£2. 65
153	<u>1965 Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference.</u> Sets mint and used, and plate blocks complete (note that the 2/- plate block has always been elusive, even as a new issue). 19 mint, 3 used	£16. 50
154	<u>1966 National Scout Jamboree.</u> Imprint/block (of 6 stamps), plate and sheet value blocks (4 stamps each), and mint and used singles	£1. 10

155	<u>1967 P. O. S. B. Comprehensive collection of both values, including plate, imprint and variety blocks, all fully identified. 60 mint, 2 used</u>	£10. 50
156	<u>1967 Royal Society. An equally fine lot of the first decimal currency commemorative set. Again plate and imprint blocks are complete and varieties include a 4c marginal copy with watermark inverted, and all the Catalogued plate varieties. 75 mint, 2 used</u>	£13. 00
157	(a) <u>1968 Maori Bible. Plate/imprint blocks complete, sheet value block, two nice varieties in blocks, and a perfect mint copy with watermark inverted (very scarce) are included in this collection of 49 mint, 8 used</u>	£20. 00
	(b) <u>As above. Brilliant mint corner block of 4 with watermark inverted (SI08aZ). Rare</u>	£60. 00
158	<u>1968 Armed Services. Sets mint and used, plate/imprint blocks complete, and mint marginal blocks of 4 of the 4c and 28c with inverted watermark. 29 mint, 3 used</u>	£37. 50
159	<u>1968 Universal Suffrage/Human Rights. Imprint/plate blocks of both 3c and 10c, with singles mint and used. 18 mint, 2 used</u>	£4. 15
160	<u>1969 I. L. O. Imprint/plate block, "traffic lights" block and singles mint and used. 11 mint, 1 used</u>	£5. 75
161	<u>1969 N. Z. Law Society Centenary. Superb collection of 177 stamps (171 mint, 6 used), rich in shades - there are no less than eight shade blocks of the 3c, and four of the 18c. Also includes varieties, and a complete set of 14 imprint/plate blocks, with the rare 18c plates 1221 and 1a2a2a1a. A magnificent lot, offered at a fraction of Catalogue price</u>	£75. 00
162	<u>1969 Otago University Centenary. 2 used and 52 mint, mainly in plate/imprint, "traffic lights", shade and variety blocks</u>	£13. 00
163	<u>1969 Bay of Islands/Kerikeri Sesquicentennial. A complete collection of all items listed in our Catalogue - singles mint and used, plate/imprint blocks and the 4c R4/3 variety, in marginal block of 8. 22 mint, 2 used</u>	£10. 00
164	<u>1969 Bicentennial of Capt. Cook's Landing. A really magnificent and comprehensive study of this set in all its aspects - plates, varieties, covers and miniature sheets (the 12 miniature sheets present include examples of all six types). In addition to the stamps and covers, there is a good deal of fascinating ancillary material (charts, illustrations, etc.) Rearranged and remounted, this would provide the basis for a display of exhibition quality. See it on approval</u>	£110. 00

165	<u>1969 CORSO 25th Anniversary. Plate/imprint blocks, sheet value blocks and singles mint and used</u>	£18. 50
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RECENT ISSUES

25c Hauraki Gulf National Park. New plate numbers 34634, and perf. 14.	
Imprint/plate block of 6 stamps	£1. 60
30c Mt Cook National Park. New plate numbers 3323, 3333 and 3a3a3a3a, all perf. 14.	
Imprint/plate block of 6 stamps with any of the above number combinations, each ...	£1. 80
24/11/76. Maori Artifacts 11c ('Maripi'), 12c ('Putorino'), 13c ('Wahaika')	
14c ('Kotiate') : Set of 4, mint	48p
Imprint/plate blocks. Complete set of 4 blocks (of 6 stamps each)	£3. 00
Illustrated F. D. C. (Wanganui postmark)	60p