

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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SOME NOTES ON THE 1970 PICTORIALS (contd)

by Colin Hamilton

Harrison & Sons, Ltd. ($\frac{1}{2}$ c - 20c). Fourteen of the twenty basic denominations in the series were entrusted to this British firm of security printers, including all the values in mass demand. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that the major part of the philatelic interest is to be found within this group.

The original printings were all on watermarked paper, but in 1973 there began a gradual changeover to unwatermarked paper, and this was completed in 1976, the 15c being the last value to appear thus. It is interesting to note here that the 'NZ and Star' watermark, a standard feature of almost every N.Z. issue since 1874, now survives (but for how much longer, I wonder?) only on the current \$4 - \$10 Arms Type Stamps.

Three values ($\frac{1}{2}$ c, $2\frac{1}{2}$ c, $7\frac{1}{2}$ c) were not involved in the change, since an alteration to N.Z. postage rates, early in 1971, rendered further printings of these denominations unnecessary, and all three were in fact withdrawn from general sale before the end of that year. The $7\frac{1}{2}$ c never was greatly in demand, and this is reflected in the marked scarcity today of used copies. In my view it is, in used, one of the key "ordinary" stamps of the post-war era.

Among the original issues, several values have been found with the watermark inverted. Some of these varieties have proved to be relatively common; of others (notably the $\frac{1}{2}$ c, 1c and 7c) only a handful of copies or less have been recorded. Despite the intense interest in, and study of, N.Z. stamps, it is a peculiar fact that definitive issues since 1953 have consistently produced watermark varieties that "got away" - just for example, the Q.E. 1½d, 6d, 9d, 1/-, 3/-, the 1960 Pictorial 2½d, 5d, 1/3, the 1967 Pictorial 28c (all of these being 'inverts'), and the recently discovered major surprise, the 1960 1/9 Multicolour with watermark sideways. If anything in stamps is certain, it is that other similar varieties are waiting to be discovered.

Returning to our subject, Harrison's economy in the replacement of printing plates stands out in sharp contrast to Bradbury, Wilkinson's apparent lavishness. Only in one or two of the more frequently used Harrison values have new plates been necessary. Remarkably, the original plates for the 4c Puriri Moth (which for much of the period of their currency must have been the stamp in greatest demand of all) lasted throughout the period - more remarkably still, the issued stamps show little or no sign of repairs having to be made to the plates.

The stamps issued in the 75c Booklets were printed from special plates, and the paper, whether watermarked or (later) unwatermarked, was invariably used sideways for these issues. It will be evident, therefore, that individual stamps from these booklets, on watermarked paper, are readily identifiable - by the sideways watermark - from their large-sheet counterparts. Less well-known, however, (other than to C.P. Catalogue users, that is!) is the fact that unwatermarked stamps from these booklets are also identifiable, although in this case one has to rely entirely on the direction of the paper mesh, which is horizontal to the design (in all 75c booklets) and vertical to the design in all sheet stamps. Another in a long series of very good and useful reasons for mastering the quite simple knack of distinguishing mesh! (The more recent \$1 booklets, on the other hand, are made up from ordinary sheet stamps, and no such differentiation of individual stamps is possible).

Transient varieties and errors are fairly numerous, with missing colours being known in most values, striking offset impressions in several, and paper reel joins in a few. Most, though not all, of these are scarce and a few are unusually spectacular. Special mention must be made of the 4c Puriri, in which it is possible to assemble a 'complete set' of five stamps, each one having a different colour omitted, and for good measure a sixth can be added showing, on the back, a full offset of all five colours used. What a brilliant page that makes! The same stamp (in its booklet form) also provided a unique modern variety, one of the colours - the darker green - having been printed upside down in relation to the others, resulting in the rare variety Wing Veins Inverted.

The 1971 change of postage rates, mentioned briefly earlier, had the effect of raising the basic commercial and inland letter rates from 2½c and 3c to 3c and 4c respectively. But from a philatelist's point of view it had a much greater significance. The sudden need for vastly increased supplies of a 4c stamp, coupled with the equally sudden decrease in the requirement of 2½c, resulted in the 4c on 2½c provisional surcharge. Several N.Z. stamps of the past have been well-qualified for the description 'a specialist's dream' (1d Universal, 1d Dominion, 2/- Captain Cook to name but three at random), but none more so than this provisional. Quite fortuitously, the quantities subsequently issued give an unusual and fascinating insight into the scale of pre-planning of supplies needed for even a relatively small country like New Zealand. All of the basic 2½c stamps which were surcharged were already in the pipeline of production at the time of the change in rates, and in point of fact the three distinct types of surcharge are a direct reflection of the varying stages of completion of the stamps in hand at that time, as follows:

- (a) supplies printed and cut from the reel, but neither perforated nor trimmed. These were surcharged by the photogravure process.
- (b) supplies printed, perforated, trimmed and guillotined into sheets of 200 ready for issue, but not yet dispatched from the printers. These had a letterpress surcharge applied by Harrison's (trimmed sheets being unsuitable for the photogravure method, which requires a "gripping edge" to maintain tension on the work).
- (c) supplies as (b), but already dispatched to New Zealand. These were surcharged locally by the Government Printer, also by the letterpress process.

It should be noted that all unsurcharged 2½c stamps ever dispatched to N.Z. had been printed from the original plates, whereas the supplies held by Harrison's included printings from the original plates and from two new black plates. This explains the non-existence of black plate numbers 2 (A and B) and 3 (A and B) in either the unsurcharged or the locally-surcharged issues.

At the time of writing, it appears likely that the recent "Postafix" provisionals will add yet another dimension to this issue's already diverse attractions - not the least of which is the very considerable library of reference information made available to all through the publication, by a number of students, of the results of their fine and original work. All N.Z. collectors owe an incalculable debt

to those who are prepared to do the 'donkey work', and willing to share their findings. This, perhaps more than anything else, has been the keystone of N.Z. philately for many, many years.

EARLIER BOOKLET ITEMS.

A mint and used selection of these scarce and interesting issues. Unless otherwise indicated, all items offered are complete with appropriate side selvages.

- | | | |
|--------|---|---------|
| 901 | <u>K.E.VII ½d.</u> Horizontal pair with selvedge bars (W3bH), used (Tolaga Bay c.d.s.) | £ 13.50 |
| 902(a) | <u>1d Dominion.</u> Horizontal pair with 'Kodak' ad (W4eW), with left selvedge only. Finest mint | £ 7.50 |
| (b) | <u>As above.</u> Single with 'Kodak' ad. Mint or used (please state which), each | £ 3.25 |
| 903 | <u>K.G.V. ½d, Booklet Plate Proof.</u> Pair imperf, printed in black, with bars in selvages | £ 6.50 |
| 904(a) | <u>K.G.V. ½d, De La Rue Paper.</u> Mint single from the 1915 booklet, with characteristic blurring | £ 3.25 |
| (b) | <u>As above.</u> Beautiful used pair in deep dull green, from the 1919 issue (clear prints), neatly <u>tied to cover</u> by Hawera c.d.s. of 1924. The pair (W4bW) used on cover | £ 15.00 |
| 905(a) | <u>K.G.V. ½d, Jones Paper.</u> Mint pair with side and binding selvages (W4cX) | £ 12.50 |
| (b) | <u>As above.</u> Pane of 6, complete with all selvages, <u>very good used.</u> Used panes are seldom seen | £ 45.00 |
| 906(a) | <u>K.G.V. ½d, Cowan Paper, Perf. 14x15.</u> Used pair with selvedge bars but no ads. This issue is unintentionally omitted from the 1977 Catalogue Revision, but previously appeared as W4hX. The used pair | £ 2.50 |
| (b) | <u>As above.</u> Fine mint pair with 'Abdulla' ads (W4dP) | £ 12.50 |
| (c) | <u>As above.</u> Similar pair, but <u>superfine used</u> | £ 9.00 |
| (d) | <u>As above.</u> Mint single, with the much scarcer 'Dainties' ad | £ 12.50 |
| (e) | <u>As above.</u> Superfine used pair with 'Dainties' ads (W4dO) | £ 15.00 |
| 907(a) | <u>K.G.V. ½d, Cowan Paper, Perf. 14.</u> Superb mint pair with selvedge bars, but no ads (W4fV) | £ 6.25 |
| (b) | <u>As above.</u> Similar pair, but finest used | £ 2.50 |
| (c) | <u>As above.</u> Pair with 'Parisian' ads, superfine used (W4fT) | £ 2.25 |
| (d) | <u>As above.</u> Single copy with 'Parisian' ad, used | 50p |

- 908(a) K.G.V. ½d, Cowan Paper, Perf. 14x15, Reversed Wmk. Superb mint pair with 'Kodak' ads in binding and side selvages (W4eX) £ 12.75
- (b) As above. Equally fine mint pair, but with side selvedge at left only (again with 'Kodak' ad., of course) £ 7.50
- (c) As above. Pair with selvedge at both sides, used £ 7.50
- 909(a) 1d Field Marshal, Perf. 14. Superfine mint pair with selvedge bars, no ads (W4fV) £ 6.25
- (b) As above. Mint singles £ 2.00
- (c) As above. Used pair £ 2.50
- (d) As above. Complete pane of 6 with binding selvedge at bottom, and 'Parisian' ads in side selvages (W4fX). Cat. £25+ mint, but upper pair of stamps creased, hence £ 12.50
- (e) As above. Fine mint pair, with selvedge at left only £ 3.75
- (f) As above. Used pair, fine (W4fT) £ 2.25
- (g) As above. Single copy with 'Parisian' ad, used 50p
- 910(a) 1d Field Marshal, Perf. 14x15. Used pair with 'Parisian' ads (W4jX) £ 2.25
- (b) As above. Single copy with 'Parisian' ad, used 50p

911

DUNEDIN EXHIBITION COVER

The complete set of 3 Exhibition stamps, each beautifully tied by separate strikes of the Exhibition c.d.s. of 3rd April, 1926, on clean plain registered cover, with Exhibition registration label. An 'Exhibition' item in every sense! £ 75.00

KING GEORGE V – RECESS AND SURFACE PRINTS

Some superb material, offered value by value - all in mint blocks of 4, except where otherwise indicated.

- 912(a) ½d Green. Four lovely shade blocks on De La Rue paper (K13a) - deep green, green, pale green, yellow green (the last being a corner block) £ 13.00
- (b) As above. Marginal block on the thick experimental paper, with De La Rue type watermark (K13b). Unmounted £ 13.00
- (c) As above. Single copies, finest mint, each £ 3.15
- (d) As above. Three blocks on the provisional Art paper (K13d) showing excellent shades of the lithographed 'watermark' £ 2.85

- (e) As above. Strip of 4 with top selvage, on Cowan paper, Perf. 14x15, the stamps having the very pronounced blurring which occurred in the top row only, due to plate wear. The mint strip (K13eW) £ 2.50
- (f) As above. Three shade blocks of the issue overprinted WAR STAMP (K14a) £ 3.50
- 913(a) 1d Field Marshal. Four blocks perf. 14 (K15a) and two perf. 14x15 (K15b), in a delightful blaze of shades. The six blocks £ 6.50
- (b) As above. The complete, and quite brilliant, range of five shades (nay, colours), on the Cowan Reversed Watermark paper (K15c) - all in top marginal blocks (with selvage bars, of course). A rare and eye-catching page if ever there was one £225.00
- 914(a) 1½d Recess. Imperf plate proof block, printed in black, on thin unwatermarked paper £ 16.00
- (b) As above. Fine mint block on Cowan paper, perf. 14x13¼ (K1a) £ 2.40
- (c) As above. Marginal block on the same paper, showing the two main perfs se-tenant. The 'two-perf' block, unhinged (K1c) £ 22.50
- 915(a) 1½d Recess 'Pictorial' paper. Corner blocks perf. 14x13¼ (K1d), and 14x14¼ (K1e), plus a two-perf block (K1f). The set of three blocks, mint £ 18.25
- (b) As above. Another 'two-perf' block (K1f), perfect mint £ 16.00
- 916 1½d Surface Print, Local Plate (K16a). Two excellent shade blocks (one being marginal) with the distinctive diagonal shading on the King's face and neck. The two blocks, unmounted and fine. £ 28.50
- 917(a) 1½d Surface Print, London Plate. Imperf plate proof pair, printed in black on thick glazed paper £ 4.50
- (b) As above. Two blocks of the issued stamps (K17a), in outstanding shade contrasts. Superfine condition £ 19.00
- (c) As above. An unusually large block of 12 stamps (4x3), in a deep shade. Very fine £ 25.50
- 918(a) 1½d Orange-Brown. Two magnificent shade blocks on De La Rue paper (K17b). Minor tone spot on back of one stamp (invisible from front), otherwise perfection. The two blocks £ 11.00
- (b) As above. Two superfine, well-centred blocks on Cowan paper, perf. 14 (K17c), and in attractive shades (unusual in this issue) £ 12.75
- (c) As above. Another 'Cowan' perf. 14 block, top marginal with part of sheet serial number. Perfect appearance but minor crease on upper pair of stamps, hence £ 4.00

- 919 2d Recess. Plate proof block in black on thin unwmk'd paper £ 16.00
- 920(a) 2d Violet. Two blocks, perf. 14x14¼ (K2b), one (with corner selvage) in a normal bright violet; the other in a remarkable shade very reminiscent of the duller purplish shades of the 4d printed from plate 20, and deepening the mystery, this block shows slight but distinct signs of plate wear, which did not occur until after the change of colour to yellow! The two blocks .. £ 50.00
- (b) As above. 'Two-Perf' block (K2c), marginal, unmounted and superb £ 30.00
- (c) As above. Vertical pair only, with the two-perfs se-tenant. Finest mint. £ 12.75
- 921(a) 2d Yellow, Recess. Superfine block, perf. 14x14¼ (K2e) £ 7.95
- (b) As above. Two-perf block (K2f) unmounted and perfect £ 15.75
- 922 2d Surface Print. Plate proof pair, imperf, printed in intense black on very thick glazed paper £ 4.00
- 923(a) 2d Yellow, Surface Print. Block on De La Rue paper (K18a). Finest £ 2.35
- (b) As above. Two blocks on Jones paper (K18b) showing both shades as listed in our Catalogue. Condition superfine (the dull shade is a corner block) £ 9.50
- (c) As above. Two good shade blocks of the 'Litho Wmk' issue (K18c). One block has a few toned perfs. otherwise fine £ 2.50
- (d) As above. Four blocks on Wiggins Teape paper, one being perf. 14x15 (K18g), and three perf. 14 (K18h). The range of shades on this paper is nothing short of breathtaking - the blocks here run from pale yellow to rich orange. The four blocks, brilliant! £ 50.00
- 924 2½d Recess. Imperf plate proof block (marginal), printed in black on thin paper with portion of the "Special Postage Paper/London" watermark ... £ 17.50
- 925(a) 2½d Deep Blue. Three shade blocks (one is marginal), all perf. 14x13¼ (K3a), and all unmounted £ 25.00
- (b) As above. 'Two-perf' block (K3c) in a wonderfully deep shade. Very lightly hinged, but really superfine £ 25.00
- 926 3d Recess. Proof block identical to Lot 924 above, but showing a different part of the "Special Postage" watermark £ 17.50
- 927 3d Chocolate, Recess. An outstanding block on 'Pictorial' paper (K4d) the upper pair of stamps being entirely without watermark (very scarce thus) £ 15.00
- 928 3d Surface Print. Imperf plate proof pair, printed in black on thick glazed paper £ 4.00
- 929(a) 3d Chocolate, Surface Print. Block on De La Rue paper (K19a) in a deep shade. Centred slightly to the right, but condition very fine £ 10.00

- (b) As above. Block on Cowan paper, perf. 14 (K19d) in deep chocolate.
Superfine £ 15.75
- (c) As above. Another perf. 14 block in reddish chocolate, one stamp being the excellent R6/8 Face Flaw (K19dZ). Again superfine £ 19.50
- 930 4d Plate 20. Imperf plate proof block in black, on thin paper with part of the special watermark. The S.E. impression in this block is of great interest, since it shows - with brilliant clarity (being a proof, it is an exceptionally clear print) - evidence of re-entry, with doubling of the right of the moustache, and in the ornamental panel at the right. Further confirmation (if it were needed!) that 4d's from both plates are a philatelic goldmine. The proof block £ 25.00
- 931 4d Yellow. 'Two-perf' block (K5c), unmounted, and beautifully centred. The ultimate of perfection £ 19.00
- 932(a) 4d Violet, Plate 20. Fine block, perf. 14x13½ (K5d), in bright violet (early, unworn print). S.W. stamp shows re-entry, with distinct doubling in the ornamentation at centre right. The block £ 15.00
- (b) As above. Single mint examples of the two big "wrong value" re-entries at R1/6 and 4/10 (KV5d - a and b). The two major re-entry stamps (incidentally in superb shades) £ 27.50
- 933(a) 4d Deep Purple, Plate 44. Superfine block perf. 14x14¼ (K5g), in a deep, cold shade. Although without selvedge, this is the N.W. corner block from a sheet, and all four stamps thus have the prominent retouches listed as (a), (b), (f), and (g) on Temp. Page K8 in our Catalogue. The block .. £ 13.50
- (b) As above. Strip of 3 incl. the R7/10 re-entry listed and illustrated in our Catalogue. £ 8.00
- 934(a) 5d Blue. Perf. 14x13¼ block (K7a) in the distinctive steel-blue shade. Minor perf. tone, otherwise superb £ 25.00
- (b) As above. Superfine marginal block, perf. 14x14¼ (K7b) in the blue shade, and with brownish gum. The block is demonstrably from the lower half of a sheet, and thus is proved to be from the small early printing in this shade ... £ 37.50
- (c) As above. Block (with top selvedge) in pale ultramarine, perf. 14x14¼ (K7b), Finest condition £ 31.00

Note: The above lots (a), (b) and (c) together would provide a perfect reference set of the 5d shades, which some collectors find difficult. Seen in blocks such as these, the shades are quite unmistakable.

- 935 6d Plate Proof. Imperf. block printed in black on unwatermarked paper £ 16.00
- 936 6d Carmine. Mouth-watering set of 4 blocks, being one block of each of the listed issues - perf. 14x13¼, 14x14¼, 'two-perf' and 'Pictorial' paper - and in a delightful range of shades. Condition is superfine. The complete set of 6d blocks £135.00

- 937(a) 7½d Deep Red Brown. Similarly complete set, but three blocks this time - 14x13½, 14x14½ and 'two-perf' (K9a/b/c). Finest condition throughout £ 87.50
- (b) As above. Very fine block perf. 14x13½ (K9a) £ 14.00
- (c) As above. 'Two-perf' block only (K9c). Perfect mint £ 55.00
- 938 8d Plate Proof. Imperf block printed in black, on paper with wmk NZ and Star inverted £ 17.50
- 939(a) 8d Indigo-Blue. Three blocks, again complete per C.P. listings, and again finest condition. The three blocks (K10a/b/c) £ 70.00
- (b) As above. 'Two-perf' block (K10c), marginal and unmounted £ 40.00
- 940 8d Red-Brown. (K10d). Very fine block in as pale a shade as we can ever recall seeing. Magnificent £ 50.00
- 941(a) 9d Sage Green. One of the most difficult of the whole series to find in multiples, yet here is a complete set of three blocks in each of the main perfs - 14x13½, 14x14½ and 'two-perf'. One stamp in the '14½' block has a tiny gum thin, otherwise condition is 'C.P. finest'. The three blocks (K11a/b/c), a rare set £145.00
- (b) As above. A stupendous block, perf. 14x13½, in yellow-olive £ 47.50
- 942 1/- Plate Proof. Imperf block in black on thin unwmk'd paper. Insignificant diagonal creasing (not noticable from front) affects lower pair, hence, the proof block £ 10.00
- 943 1/- Vermilion. Superfine block, perf. 14x13½ (K12a) in pale orange-vermilion £ 32.50

RECENT ISSUES

- 3/8/77 1977 Health 7c+2c, 8c+2c, 10+2c.
- Set of 3 stamps, mint 32p
- Imprint/plate blocks. Complete set of six blocks of 6 stamps each (2 plates each value) £ 3.90
- Imprint/plate blocks. Set of three blocks (one of each value) £ 2.00
- Miniature Sheet of 6 (comprising 2 stamps of each value se-tenant) 64p
- Official illustrated F.D.C. (Wangunui postmark) 40p
- Health Camp Postmarks. Complete set of 6 different Camp Postmarks, (Maunu, Roxburgh, Glenelg, Pakuranga, Otaki, Gisborne), each on official cover bearing a full set of the Health stamps. The set of six covers £ 2.95

Recent Variety.

- 20c Maori Tattoo Pattern, no wmk, bluish gum. Mint corner block of 15 (5x3) with extensive and prominent plate scratches through Row 3, stamps 1-5, and in top selvage. The big variety block £ 3.95