

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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VOLUME XV

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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

by Colin Hamilton

1960 Christmas Stamp. The plate numbers appearing on sheets of this Harrison-printed issue indicate that only two plates were involved in its production - a red plate numbered 1A and a deep brown plate numbered 1. Examination of normal stamps reinforces this view, those two colours being the only ones in evidence. (The overall yellow tint has nothing to do with the printing, of course, paper pre-dyed to this colour having been selected for the job.)

Recently, however, I saw a joined strip of three stamps which suggested that not two, but three separate plates might have been used. In the strip (a horizontal one with left selvedge), the right hand stamp was normal, as was a narrow vertical strip at the right-hand edge of the adjacent impression. The remainder of this stamp and the whole of the third copy were on the other hand of strikingly abnormal appearance, the brown colour being describable as very pale, in comparison with the normal. (I should add here that the red portions of the design were normal in all three stamps).

The effect was at first glance very like that of a partial release, or 'lifting' of the pressure cylinder, which can and does occur occasionally (and quite normally) in modern photogravure presses, as part of the built-in mechanism for automatic adjustment during printing.

On closer inspection, though, the lighter, less-heavily shaded areas of the design were of identical appearance in both 'normal' and 'abnormal' impressions. In other words, the difference between normal and abnormal was the presence or absence of colour in the very darkest areas only, i.e., in those parts of the design which normally consist of solid colour.

Now a 'pressure lift' as mentioned above would, it seems to me, result inevitably in an overall lightening of the print, not a selective one. So the only explanation that seems to fit the evidence of this strip satisfactorily is that two separate plates were used to print the brown colour - one for the tones, and another for the solid areas. The absence of a distinguishing plate number is not necessarily significant, there being several other known instances of Harrison-printed stamps in which sheets show this peculiarity.

It would follow, too, that this is an example of a missing colour with a difference, and one to tax the ingenuity of catalogue editors. How does one list a "brown omitted" variety when it is but it isn't, if you see what I mean!

Incidentally, I have a strong suspicion that the scarce 'pale brown' listed in our Catalogue as SC1a(3), and the variety discussed here, may well be one and the same thing.

1/9 Aerial Top Dressing. Following upon my report of the discovery of two copies of this stamp in its multicolour form with watermark sideways (the normal being upright), I am indebted to Mr. J.M. Shelton of Middlesex for an interesting and well thought out alternative to my own suggestion that the variety was probably accidental. He writes:

"I have been watching the Bulletin for any further mention of O15b with sideways watermark but since nothing has appeared perhaps I could offer a theory that might explain its appearance. I would suggest that at some time before NZ went decimal (say early in 1967) the Post Office felt that they might run short of this value before 'D' day, and that they put in an order - possibly a fairly small one - for a further quantity. At this time Harrisons would doubtless be engaged in printing the decimal versions, and you will recall that in this series the similarly-shaped stamps, the 8c Flag (OD10a) and 10c Timber (OD11a) have the sideways watermark. It is perhaps not too much to suggest that, in these circumstances, a reprint of O15b might have been made on this paper. It would probably be unlikely that the printers would make mention of such a variation and in NZ the Post Office would probably put them into stock without a second look. Presumably few, if any, were actually issued in sheet form (supposing my theory to be correct) and a probably very few sheets were issued for make-up into coils."

Mr. Shelton's ideas are attractive, for two reasons. Firstly, a logical and reasonable explanation of any peculiarity is invariably infinitely more satisfying than having to put the peculiarity down to pure accident. Secondly, it has that marvellous simplicity which makes one say enviously "Why on earth didn't I think of that possibility myself?" Unfortunately, on the evidence of the two copies I have seen (still all we have to go on) it is not wholly convincing. As mentioned in my original note, the watermarks of the variety stamps were rather difficult to pick up, this being due to the thick, 'flat', opaque quality of the paper, a feature common to normal copies of O15b. On the other hand, the paper used for the decimal values mentioned appears to be thinner, and the watermarks are relatively readily visible. This in itself is, however, by no means conclusive on such scanty evidence and I hope that other examples of the sideways watermark 1/9 may yet come to light. Perhaps we shall then be in a better position to evaluate the possibility put forward by Mr. Shelton.

VOLUME 6 OF "THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF NEW ZEALAND"

The following note appeared in the June 1977 issue of "The New Zealand Stamp Collector" (which, like the Handbooks, is also published by the R.P.S.N.Z.):

"Owing to difficulties at the printers, it is regretted that our hopes of an earlier publication date for Volume 6 will not now be realised.

The latest advice is that the first copies will become available some time in August or early September"

Since the above note was published, we have heard from another source that the publication date will be September 27th.

In any case, we should like to assure all who ordered copies some time ago through our firm that these orders have been placed with the R.P.S.N.Z., and copies will be dispatched just as soon as they come to hand. However, please bear in mind that surface mail transit time has to be allowed for after the volume is published.

FIRST PICTORIALS

All items offered under this heading are in mint blocks of 4.

1001	<u>1/4d Mt Cook (Purple).</u> Fine mint block of the London-Print 1/4d (E1a) in purple-slate	£ 7.50
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1002	<u>1½d Boer War Contingent.</u> Unhinged bottom right corner block in a lovely bright shade, perf. 14 (E4b), and with sideways watermark no. '4' in the extreme corner of the selvage (indicating the dandy roll used during manufacture of the paper)	£ 9.25
1003	<u>2d Pembroke Peak (Purple).</u> Perf. 11 block (E6a) in reddish purple, and with bottom selvage. Centring not perfect (perf. 11's very seldom are), but condition otherwise brilliant	£ 7.75
1004(a)	<u>As above.</u> Set of three blocks, all perf. 14 (E6b) - one each in dull purple, red-purple, and bright red purple, the last showing pronounced 'aniline' toning through the paper. A superb trio	£ 22.00
(b)	<u>As above.</u> Another block, in pale dull reddish purple, both right hand stamps showing frame re-entries at the lower right corner	£ 8.25
1005(a)	<u>2½d Lake Wakitipu.</u> Superfine marginal block of the 'spelling error' stamp (E7a), in bright blue	£ 11.00
(b)	<u>As above.</u> Another equally fine marginal block, this one in a duller blue shade	£ 11.00
1006	<u>2½d Lake Wakatipu.</u> Perf. 11 unwatermarked issue (E8b), block in bright blue, marginal and unhinged	£ 18.50
1007	<u>As above.</u> Perf. 14 block (E8d) in deep deep blue. Unmounted and lovely appearance, but a little insignificant perf toning allows	£ 6.25
1008	<u>3d Huia.</u> Fine block of the London Print (E9a) in deep yellow-brown	£ 15.50
1009	<u>As above.</u> Perf. 11 watermarked (E9c). A lovely block in the distinctive pale bistre shade	£ 15.50
1010	<u>As above.</u> Three blocks, perf. 14 (E9d), showing really outstanding shades including the scarcest one, a pale yellow-bistre. Condition fine, but for a tiny thin spot on one stamp (not in the scarce shade), and this stamp is not reckoned in the price of	£ 50.00
1011(a)	<u>4d White Terrace (E11a).</u> Fine block in deep rose	£ 10.00
(b)	<u>As above.</u> Another block (marginal) in bright rose. Unmounted and superb in all respects, apart from a few split perfs	£ 14.00
(c)	<u>As above.</u> Yet another beautiful block, this one in the scarcer lake-rose shade	£ 27.50
1012	<u>4d Lake Taupo.</u> Perf. 11 unwatermarked block (E12a) in deep blue and bistre brown. Fine condition, though a little offcentre (again to be expected in perf. 11)	£ 9.75
1013	<u>As above.</u> Brilliant unmounted block, perf. 11 watermarked (E12b). Perfection	£ 12.75

- 1014(a) As above. Set of four blocks, perf. 14(E12c) representing all the listed shades. Finest condition, and a magnificent show £ 52.50
- (b) As above. Corner block, again perf. 14, in deep bright blue and chestnut. Very fine £ 15.50
- (c) As above. Very fine block in the blue and pale brown-yellow shade, and including the major re-entry at R1/3 (EV 12a). The variety block £ 18.00
- 1015(a) As above. Superb block from the final, comb-perf issue, with the notably neat and clean-cut perf holes (E12f) £ 30.00
- (b) As above. Another comb perf block, equally fine, and in a shade markedly different from the previous item, the frame colour here being an extraordinarily pale yellow-brown £ 30.00
- 1016 6d Kiwi (Red). Superfine block, perf. 11 watermarked issue (E14e), in a remarkable shade of soft rose pink. The fact that one stamp is virtually without watermark, and another has letter wmk, is almost incidental! The block, outstanding in all respects £ 45.00
- 1017 6d Kiwi (Red) Reduced Design. Perf. 14 block (E15a) in the seldom seen deep aniline pink shade. Glorious, and shade guaranteed £ 62.50
- 1018 8d War Canoe. Perf. 14 block (E16d) in which both lower stamps show minor but definite signs of re-entry doubling. Thin spot on one of the non-re-entry stamps, otherwise fine £ 15.00
- 1019 1/- Kea & Kaka. Lovely block of the London Print (E18a) in orange-red £ 31.00
- 1020(a) 1/- Kea & Kaka Reduced Design. Superlative block in the normal palish orange-red of the perf. 14x12½-13¼ issue (E19a). Blocks of the 'reduced' 1/- are exceptionally scarce £ 97.50
- (b) As above. Wonder of wonders, another block of the same issue, this one being in deep, deep shade approaching the "red" found in local printings of the large 1/-. Possibly unique block - a tiny tear at the top of one stamp (clear of the design) does nothing to detract £110.00

MISCELLANY

Ar random selection of more unusual items from stock.

- 1021 1d Universal Booklet Pane. Pane of 6 stamps, imperf at top and sides (W2Z), with large part binding selvage (this has been torn along the line of the stapling). Plated as pane no. 24, from the extreme bottom right corner of the sheet, and stamp no. 6 is thus the notable R9/16 re-entry. Lightly mounted, but beautifully fresh mint £ 80.00
- 1022 King Edward VII Heads. A complete simplified set of the Edward definitives, without regard to perfs. Nine values (½d, 2d, 3d, 4d orange, 4d yellow, 5d, 6d, 8d, 1/-) all unmounted mint except the 4d orange, which has been lightly hinged. The set of 9 Edwards £ 28.50

- 1023 1d Dominion. An exquisite complete booklet pane with 'Abdulla' ads at each side, and 'Jeyes Fluid' ad in binding selvedge (W4dW). Immaculate condition, lightly hinged in binding selvedge only. The pane £ 47.50
- 1024 K.G.V. 8d Red-Brown (K10d). Set of two used copies showing to perfection the listed shades of red-chocolate and red-brown £ 1.25
- 1025 K.G.V. 9d. Set of three stamps, perf. 14x13½ (K11a), showing quite beautifully the listed shades of sage-green, pale sage-green and yellow-olive. The shade set, good to very fine mint £ 18.00
- 1026 K.G.V. 1/- Official. The listed shades of vermilion, orange-vermilion and salmon in perf. 14x14½ (K12b), each displayed in magnificent blocks of 4, the first two being marginal unmounted, while the 'salmon' is non-marginal and previously hinged. The set of shade blocks, unrepeatable £ 75.00
1027. K.G.V. ½d Green. Unused copy with full gum, on De La Rue paper (K13a), but defaced by means of two parallel lines, 9mm apart, printed vertically in black. A few other issues are known thus (½d Mt Cook and 1d Dominion, for example), and the stamps so treated were intended for use in testing vending machines. The ½d 'George V' £ 1.85
- 1028 As above. Complete ½d booklet pane of 6, with 'Abdulla' and 'Jeyes Fluid' advertisements (W4dZ). The companion to lot 1023, and in the same beautiful condition, too £ 47.50
- 1029 K.G.V. 1d Field Marshal. Mint booklet pane of 6, perf. 14, with 'Parisian' adverts (W4fX). No binding selvedge, but otherwise finest condition £ 18.50
- 1030 K.G.V. 2d Surface Print. Mint block of 4 on Cowan paper, perf. 14x15, with full offset impression on the backs of all four stamps (K18dZ). Striking and spectacular £ 27.50
- 1031(a) 2/- Admiral. Mint copies on both Jones and Cowan papers (K20a/b), showing the very pronounced differences of both paper and shade (in addition the 'Jones' copy has wmk inverted). The 'Cowan' is a little off-centre, but condition is otherwise perfect, both stamps being unmounted £ 31.50
- (b) As above. Marginal mint block of 4 of the 2/- Cowan (K20b). An area of the gum is slightly discoloured, but facially the block is absolutely immaculate. Cat. \$ 100 as singles, and blocks are worth a substantial premium, so attractive at our price of £ 50.00
- 1032(a) Second Pictorial 2½d. Finest mint block of 4, 14 line, with watermark inverted (L5dZ) £ 12.00
- (b) As above. The same variety, but a single copy, mint £ 2.50
- 1033(a) Second Pictorial 5d Swordfish. Mint block of 4, perf. 13-14x13½, with variety watermark inverted (L8cZ) £ 15.00

	(b) <u>As above.</u> Single copy with inverted watermark, mint	£ 3.15
1034	<u>Q.E. Official 3/-</u> . The "queen" of all the modern NZ official stamps, offered in an imprint/plate block of 4, perfect mint unhinged	£ 72.50
1035	<u>1920 Victory</u> . Perhaps the pick-of-the-month - a complete set of 7 values to 1/- (incl. the 2d on ½d surcharge), <u>all in superfine used blocks of 4</u> , each block cancelled by neat c.d.s. with contemporary date (the surcharge block is dated 1922, all the others 1920). The set of used blocks, excellent buying at	£220.00
1036	<u>1946 Health</u> . Unhinged mint set of both values, each with the variety Blurred Centre (T18aW, T18bZ). Supplied with a 'normal' set for comparison	£ 12.50
1037(a)	<u>1939 Express Delivery 6d</u> . A complete sheet of 60 of the Motor Car design (U2a), with the distinctive brown gum. Folded vertically down the central perforations, and in perfect condition, with full selvages. The 'Express' sheet, invaluable research material (Cat. well over £70 as single stamps).	£ 47.50
	(b) <u>As above.</u> Marginal block of 4, perfect mint	£ 6.00
1038	<u>1931 Air Mail</u> . Block of 4 of the 3d perf. 14x14½ (V1a), <u>superb mint unmounted</u> . Blocks of the early Airs are scarce - in this lovely condition (and perfectly centred too) they are near-impossible. The block	£ 40.00
1039	<u>As above.</u> Another block, this time of the 4d (V2a). To avoid repetition, re-read the description of the 3d block above - condition of this block is identically immaculate	£ 40.00
1040	<u>Pigeon Post</u> . Brilliant mint block of 4 of the red 1/- 'Marotiri Island' (VP6). Blocks of this stamp are scarce (an extensive 'Pigeon Post' collection broken down and auctioned in London recently contained nothing larger than a single). Our block is unmounted (with selvage at right), and centring (always difficult in this issue) is exceptionally good. The 'Marotiri' block	£175.00
1041	<u>1947 Life Insurance 2½d</u> (X16a). The 'Cape Campbell' is the key value in the basic set, being a much later addition. We can offer:	
	(a) Imprint/plate block of 4 stamps, finest mint	£ 15.00
	(b) Block of 4, unmounted mint	£ 12.50
	(c) Single stamp unmounted mint	£ 3.00
	(d) Single stamp, finest used	£ 3.25

KING GEORGE VI PLATE VARIETIES, USED

The most comprehensive listing of these interesting items it has ever been our pleasure to offer. Identification throughout is by Mr. Frank Mohr who, as the writer of the relevant chapter in the N.Z. Handbook, is one of the world's leading authorities on these varieties.

1042(a)	<u>½d Green</u> (M1a), plate 2 R10/4 retouch to background above head	£ 4.00
	(b) <u>As above.</u> plate 19 R7/5 retouch to 'REVE' of Revenue, MV1a(b)	£ 5.00

1043(a)	<u>1d Scarlet</u> , (M2a), plate 4 R5/7 retouch to right hand panel, in pair with normal	£ 4.00
(b)	<u>As above</u> , plate 6 R5/14, extensive retouching to right of head, MV2a(b). A naked-eye variety	£ 5.00
(c)	<u>As above</u> , plate 6 R5/15 retouch to left panel, MV2a(b)	£ 5.00
Note:	We can offer the latter two varieties (R5/14 and 5/15) in a horizontal pair, at	£10.00
(d)	<u>As above</u> , plate 6 R10/19 retouch to right of head	£ 4.00
(e)	<u>As above</u> , plate 7 R6/18, both first and second state retouches, the latter in pair with normal, MV2a(c and d). The three used stamps	£10.00
(f)	<u>As above</u> , plate 7 R6/18, the later second state retouch, MV2a(d)	£ 5.00
(g)	<u>As above</u> , plate 8 R2/21 retouch above bridge of nose, MV2a(e)	£ 4.00
(h)	<u>As above</u> , plate 8 R5/20, easily seen retouch in background to right of neck, MV2a(f)	£ 5.00
(i)	<u>As above</u> , plate 8 R6/6, a naked-eye flaw obliterating most of the crown on the Kings chest, MV2a(g)	£ 4.00
(j)	<u>As above</u> , plate 11 R10/6, major retouching, best seen as a doubling of top inner frame line, MV2a(h)	£ 5.00
(k)	<u>As above</u> , plate 11 R10/7 retouching, similar to R10/6 above, but without doubling of frame line, MV2a(j)	£ 5.00
(l)	<u>As above</u> , plate 12 R9/11 retouch by right frame	£ 4.00
(m)	<u>As above</u> , plate 12 R9/24, retouch to medal ribbons, MV2a(k)	£ 4.00
(n)	<u>As above</u> , plate 26 R3/2 retouch to left frame, MV2a(m)	£ 2.50
(o)	<u>As above</u> , plate 26 R5/18, retouch to ribbons, similar to plate 12 R9/24 but clearly different in detail, MV2a(n)	£ 2.50
1044(a)	<u>1d Green</u> , plate 28 R8/10 retouch to forehead, MV2c(c). An easily seen variety, on FVM paper (M2c)	£ 5.00
(b)	<u>As above</u> , plate 29 R6/3 central ornament in top frame is weak along its top edge, on FVM paper (M2c). A naked-eye, uncatalogued variety (Note: one copy of this variety is available on FHM paper - M2b - at £5)	£ 5.00
(c)	<u>As above</u> , plate 31 R3/17 retouch to top left corner of central area, MV2c(e)	£ 5.00
(d)	<u>As above</u> , plate 36 R4/2 retouch to left of top frame, MV2c(f), on FVM paper (M2c)	£ 3.00
(e)	<u>As above</u> , the same R4/2 variety but on CVM paper (M2d) and scarce thus	£ 5.00
(f)	<u>As above</u> , plate 48 R5/13 retouch to left frame	£ 3.00
(g)	<u>As above</u> , plate 65 R6/5, once again a readily seen retouch, to right of head, MV2d(e)	£ 4.00
(h)	<u>As above</u> , plate 72 R5/7 retouch to top third of right panel	£ 4.00
(i)	<u>As above</u> , plate 72 R8/4 retouch to background by jaw	£ 4.00
(j)	<u>As above</u> , plate 73 R1/16 retouch to hair, top panel and background between, MV2d(g)	£ 4.00
(k)	<u>As above</u> , plate 73 R1/17 retouch to top of left frame	£ 3.00
(l)	<u>As above</u> , plate 73 R5/20, naked-eye flaw to R of Revenue, MV2d(h)	£ 5.00
(m)	<u>As above</u> , plate 77 R3/6 retouch to 'STAGE' of Postage and 'W' of New, MV2d(j)	£ 6.00
(n)	<u>As above</u> , plate 78 R4/16, right outer frame is weak over much of its length, easily seen and in pair with normal	£ 5.00
(o)	<u>As above</u> , plate 78 R7/1 retouch, best seen as a short vertical crack in background to left of head	£ 5.00
(p)	<u>As above</u> , plate 78 R7/17 retouch to background by right hand frame, MV2d(k)	£ 3.00

(q)	As above, plate 78 R8/11, naked-eye retouch to 'LAND' of Zealand, and of both frame lines below, MV2d(m)	£ 5.00
(r)	As above, plate 84 R10/20 retouch to right of head, on either CVM paper (M2d) or CHM paper (M2e), each	£ 4.50
(s)	As above, plate 85 R2/22 retouch to background, MV2d(n), again on either CVM or CHM paper, each	£ 4.50
(t)	As above, plate 85 R9/17 retouch to top left corner of background, MV2d(p), please state whether CVM or CHM paper preferred, each	£ 4.50
1045	1d on ½d Green (M3a). The plate 19 R7/5 retouch, advertised in lot 1042(b), is here seen on the 1941 provisional issue, MV3a	£ 4.00
1046	1½d Chocolate (M4a), plate 21 R4/10 flaw, spot of colour on forehead, MV4a(c)	£ 6.00

(To be Continued)

RECENT ISSUES

Special Pictorial Cancellations. (all on the official Pictorial Date-stamp Service printed 25c postcard).

6/5/77	50th Anniversary/Massey University N.Z.	30p
19/5/77	Commonwealth Telecommunications Council/Auckland N.Z.	30p
4/6/77	Museum of Transport and Technology (MOTAT)	30p
1/7/77	Ophir N.Z. (Otago goldfields)	30p
5/7/77	Young Farmers Clubs/50th Anniversary/Christchurch N.Z.	30p

Postal Stationery. (all items have the new imprinted stamp design).

7c postcard, green on white, unused	10p
8c Envelope (165mmx90mm), carmine on white	12p
8c Letter Card, carmine on blue	14p

80c and \$1 Booklets. We can now offer the complete range of these items as follows.

80c, including pane of 10x8c Rose with fixing selvage at left	80p
Ditto., but pane has fixing selvage at right	80p

\$1, including pane of 10x10c Coat of Arms, with fixing selvage at left	£ 1.00
Ditto., but pane has fixing selvage at right	£ 1.00

1977 SILVER JUBILEE — A C.P. "SPECIAL"

Set of 12 Miniature Sheets, representing a complete reconstruction of the master sheet as printed. Each miniature sheet in our set is numbered (from 1 to 12) to correspond with the detailed tabulation which appeared in the N. Z. Newsletter dated June 1977 (on request a copy of these details will be supplied with the set).

The Silver Jubilee Reconstruction, a magnificent and unique embellishment to any N.Z. collection
N.Z. collection £ 20.00

N.B. Stocks of the above are strictly limited. The work involved, both in seeking out supplies of the twelve types, and in subsequent assembly of sets, has proved so taxing and time consuming that when current supplies are sold, there will be no attempt to make up further sets.