NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN

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MORE ON SCRATCHED PLATE MARKINGS

by Colin Hamilton

My notes last month on this subject have to date brought forth no further reports of finds in the selvedges of sheets of issued stamps. However, Mr. M. S. Burberry of Kent, has discovered in a most unexpected quarter something which appears to be completely new, and which has an indirect relevance to the subject.

In Mr. Burberry's collection of printer's sample sheets of First Pictorials is a sheet of the 1/- value in deep blue with abnormally wide selvedge at the top, and close examination revealed the marking 'NEW ZEALAN 1/-' in three lines, appearing in reverse high in this selvedge.

It will be recalled that these miniature sheets (of nine stamps each, with selvedge all round) were the work of the same firm – Waterlow & Sons – as all the N.Z. Plates known to carry scratched markings. In this case, however, the markings described must have been placed there by Waterlows, since these plates and the printings from them, were made by Waterlows for their own commercial purposes. This discovery seems to me to confirm that Mr. Diamond's 1d Terraces marking was also of Waterlow's making, as I suggested, rather than an addition made after the plate arrived in New Zealand.

AUCTION REALISATIONS

Some remarkable prices were paid at a recent sale in London of early covers and entires from the collection formed by Mr. M. C. Stanley of Wellington. Perhaps the most notable were the £15000 realised for a cover bearing two London Print 1d's, and the £6500 for a Richardson blue paper 1/- 'bisect' cover. This illustrates very well the impossible task facing catalogue editors in assessing even short term future values (our own 1977 Revision listings of these two items were $15000 and $6500 respectively – suggesting that for certain material the listed figures remain unchanged, but the $ units have mutated to £s!). It should be added that it is not only exotica to which these trends apply. Already in New Zealand itself a very broad range of far less exalted items than those mentioned is changing hands at price levels way in excess of any catalogue quotations – a sure sign of things to come.

BRITISH PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

Of recent years N.Z. entries have figured prominently in this annual national exhibition. The 1977 B.P.E. was no exception, there being no fewer than 16 award-winning exhibits with a New Zealand flavour, covering the entire stamp-issuing period from the Full-Face Queens to the 1970-75 Pictorials. Congratulations to all who showed the flag so prominently and so well.

Silver Gilt Award: M. S. Burberry (Airmails 1919-31)

Silver Awards: S. F. Cross-Rudkin (two, both for King Edward VII); Mrs. R. Gilders (Second Side-faces on cover); M. D. Jackson (1935-43 Pictorials); R.T.E. Standing (1d Universal/1d Dominion).

Bronze-Silver Awards: G. M. Cooper (1935-43 Pictorials); P. Marks (1970 Pictorials); Capt. B.J. Pratt (1d Universals); E.G.Ward (Adson).

Bronze Awards: P. Marks (4c/2½c Provisional); Capt. B. J. Pratt (1d Universals); J.A.W. Smith (1935-43 Pictorials); J.A.W. Smith (Q.E. Definitives).

Diploma of Merit: N.Z. Society of G.B. (1976 issues of 'The Kiwi'); C. Ryder (Chalon Heads).

In addition to the awards mentioned above, Mr. Standing received the Bridger & Kay Challenge Trophy, for the best 20th Century British or Commonwealth stamp exhibit, and Martin Jackson gained the Addie Swainson Trophy, for the Junior Class exhibit showing the best philatelic knowledge having regard to the age of the competitor.

Finally, special mention should be made of the excellent display of Chalon Heads which was provided at very short notice by Mr. J. D. Evans for exhibition Hors Concours.

TREAT YOURSELF TO A BARGAIN PRICE PRESENT

A seasonable opportunity for Bulletin readers to benefit from a couple of very favourable purchases of counter coil pairs which came our way recently at auction. All are at less than normal prices – most are at half price or even less. Condition throughout is first class – in fact the only "catch" is that supplies are limited, and unlikely to be repeated at these prices.

King George VI Rubber-Stamped Numbers

MC1b	1d Red No.	.....	20p	MC1f	3d	.....	£1.00
MC1d	2d VM paper	.....	90p	MC1h	5d	.....	£1.00
MC1e	2d HM paper	.....	60p	MC1j	6d	.....	£1.00

King George VI Large Machine-Printed Numbers Type a (large)

MC2a	2d VM paper	25p	MC2m	9d coarse paper	75p
MC2a(Y)	2d VM/HM paper combined	60p	MC2n(Z)	1/- wmk upr/sideways combined	£2.00
MC2c	3d fine paper	30p			
MC2d	3d coarse paper	60p	MC2o	1/- wmk sideways.....	£1.00
MC2e	4d fine paper	60p	MC2p	1/- centre die 2	£1.00
MC2g	5d fine paper	50p	MC2q	1/3 frame die 1a	£1.00
MC2h	6d fine paper	60p	MC2r	1/3 frame die 1b	£1.00
MC2j	8d fine paper	90p			
MC2k	8d coarse paper	90p			

King George VI Small Machine-Printed Numbers Type b (small)

MC3a	2d coarse VM paper ...	£2.50	MC3c	4d coarse paper	£3.00
MC3b	3d coarse paper	£2.00			

Q.E. Original Designs with Machine-Printed Numbers Type b

NC1a	2d myrtle green	25p	NC1j	6d purple	30p
NC1c	3d die 1b, no reading down	50p	NC1k	8d rose-carmine	30p
NC1h	4d ultramarine	30p			

Q.E. Redrawn Design with Machine-Printed Numbers Type b

NC2a	6d no. reading down	75p

Q.E. Original Design with Machine-Printed Numbers Type c

NC3d	4d ultramarine	90p

Q.E. Redrawn Designs, with Machine-Printed Numbers Type c

NC4a	2d myrtle green	50p	NC4d	6d mauve, no. reading up	60p

Q.E. Middle Values in Horizontal Pairs with Type b Numbers

NC5a	9d brown/green	£2.00	NC5c	1/6 black/ultramarine ..	£2.50

Q.E. Middle Values in Vertical Pairs with Type b Numbers

NC6a	9d no. upright	50p	NC6c	1/- no. sideways reading up	£1.25
NC6b	1/- no. upright	60p	NC6d	1/6 no. upright	60p

Q.E. Middle Values in Vertical Pairs with Type c Numbers

NC7a	9d no. inverted	50p	NC7c(Z)	1/6 no. inverted, narrow gutter...	60p
NC7b(Y)	1/- narrow gutter	50p			
			NC7d	1/9 no. inverted.....	£1.75

Q.E. Fine White Paper Issues with Type c Numbers

NC8a	2d horiz. pair	80p	NC8e	1/9 vert. pair	£2.00
NC8d	8d chestnut horiz. pair .	£3.50			

1960 Pictorials, Black Coil Numbers

OC3a	2d vert. pair	£1.25	OC14a	1/6 vert. pair	£2.50
OC6a	4d vert. pair	£1.50	OC15a	1/9 bistre, horiz. pair...	£4.50
OC12a	1/- horiz. pair	£2.50			

1960 Pictorials, Red Coil Numbers

OC3b	2d vert. pair	60p	OC10a	8d vert. pair	£1.25
OC4a	2½d vert. pair	40p	OC12b	1/- horiz. pair	£2.00
OC5a	3d vert. pair	30p	OC13a	1/3 vert. pair	£1.50
"	complete set, nos. 1-23 .	£6.00	OC14b	1/6 vert. pair	£1.50
OC6b	4d vert. pair	40p	OC15b	1/9 bistre, horiz. pair...	£3.75
OC8a	6d vert. pair, ord. paper	60p	OC15c	1/9 multicolour, horiz. pair	£2.00
OC8a(Z)	Do., chalky paper	£2.00			

1967 Pictorials

ODC5	3c vert. pair	25p	ODC12	15c vert. pair	60p
ODC6	4c horiz. pair	20p	ODC13	20c Taniwha, vert. pair	£1.20
ODC8	6c horiz. pair	25p	ODC22	10c horiz. pair.....	60p
ODC10	8c horiz. pair	50p			

Complete set, consisting of the seven pairs listed above, plus the 2½c and the 20c Cattle. All 9 pairs have the same coil number. The set £7.50

POT POURRI

A selection mainly of unusual and better items.

1201 (a) Full-Face Queen Plate Proofs. Rare set of three (2d,6d,1/-) imperf and printed in black by Perkins, Bacon & Co. from the plates in their original unworn state. Colour is intense, designs brilliantly full and clear. Also included is an example of the Hausburg reproductions from Plate 2 of the 2d on thin card, showing the vastly different quality of print. The proofs £50.00

(b) As above. Block of 4 of the quite common 2d Plate 2 Hausburg reproductions mentioned above (these were printed in 1960) ..... £ 2.50

1202 ½d Newspaper. There were several types of newspaper wrapper impressed with the ½d Newspaper stamp. This one has the instructions in five lines, enclosed in a wavy line frame with fleur-de-lis motifs at each corner. The wrapper, fine fresh unused .. £3.75

1203 Second Sideface 8d. Die proof in black on thin white card, printed by Messrs. Bock & Cousins (this item is recorded in Volume 2 of "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand"). Supplied with an enlarged photographic print for write-up purposes £95.00

Note: Comparable die proofs of the First Sidefaces sold recently in auction for £130. each.

1204 Second Sideface 6d (Die 1). Imperf block of 4 printed in black, from the official reproductions of this series ..... £ 8.50

1205 (a) ½d Mt Cook Green. Mint block of 4 from the original plates on Cowan wmk'd paper, with variety watermark inverted-and-reversed (F4bW). Fine condition £32.50

(b) As above. Single copy of the same variety. Finest mint, and scarce ..... £ 9.00

1206 1d Universal Plate Blocks. Two matching bottom selvedge blocks of 6 stamps each, from the Waterlow Trial Plates (G9) and showing the distinctive plate numbers W1 and W2. In addition, the blocks are in quite magnificent shades, the W2 piece being notably bright, with strong aniline toning through the paper. The W1 block is centred somewhat to the left, otherwise condition is remarkably fine and fresh. The two scarce plate blocks £85.00

1207 4d Mitre Peak. The line perf. 14 issue of this value (L7c) is one of the scarcest of all the Second Pictorials – in plate block of 4, as here (with pl. no. 3), it is something of a rarity £47.50

1208 2d Whare Official. In perf. 12½ (LO4e), another extremely elusive stamp, we can offer this in mint plate block of 4, with plate no. 2A, of course £60.00

1209 4d Mitre Peak Official. Mint corner block of 9, perf. 14 x 13½, including the outstanding centre plate re-entry at R3/8, with very clear trebling of the design, most noticeable in the right hand outline of the mountain. The variety block (LO7bY) . . . . . £ 9.00

1210 Second Pictorial Officials – Simplified Set. Complete mint set of 12 values (½d, 1d, 1½d, 2d, 2½d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 8d, 9d, 1/-, 2/-) without regard to watermark or perf. In common with all other Official issues, these are rising fast – many have always been difficult to find, The set of 12 Officials £32.00

1211 Q.E. 3d 'Small Figures'. Mint horizontal pair with selvedge at right, with watermark inverted. The presence of the selvedge proves this to be the scarce 'invert' from sheet issues (N5aZ), not the comparatively common similar variety from booklets £15.00

1212 Q.E. 9d. Horizontal coil pair (NC5a), the right hand stamp being R2/1 from pane 1A and thus showing the good centre plate re-entry, with clear doubling of the outlines of the diadem. A fine variety in an unusual form – offered at the price of a normal pair . . . . . £ 3.60

1213 (a) Q.E. 1/-. Mint copy of the variety Blurred Centre (N10aY). Although not noticeable on the face, a slight corner crease or gum bend allows the price of . . . . . £ 5.00

(b) As above. A guaranteed exampleiof the scarce Centre Die 1b issue (N10b) Perfect mint £50.00

(c) As above. Another copy from Die 1b, finest used £19.00

1214 Q.E. 2d on 1½d Provisional. Superfine mint copy of the error "Surcharge on small figures design" (N41a), in either of the listed shades of brown-lake or rosy-lake – please state which is preferred. Each £62.50

N.B. We have only a few copies left at this price. Market pressure has already decreed a further increase.

1215 (a) Q.E. 2½d on 3d.Provisional. A delightful mint block of 9 – the central stamp has the wide (5½mm) setting of the surcharge, and is surrounded on all sides by narrow (5mm) settings £15.00

(b) As above. Mint vertical pair with wide and narrow settings se-tenant (N42aZ) . . . . . £ 9.00

(c) As above. The same wide-and-narrow settings variety, but in the rather scarcer horizontal pair form (N42aY) £12.00

1216 Q.E. Official 4d. Superfine mint copy of the outstanding variety Printed on the Gummed Side (N025aZ). Apart from having the design printed on the top of the gum, this variety can invariably be conslusively identified by its watermark, which is inverted-and-reversed. Supplied with a normal 4d official £50.00

1217 1960 Pictorials – Chambon Perfs. A complete, complete set of 10 blocks of six – the original ½d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 8d, and the later chalky paper 1d, 3d, 6d, – all showing clearly the characteristic evidence of this experimental perforation. For good measure, the 8d block includes the R1/9 leaf flaw. The set of 10 mint blocks £32.50

1218 1960 Pictorial Booklet Panes. Set of six mint panes – ½d, 1d, and 3d from stapled booklets, and the same three values from stitched booklets, with number (4) in side selvedges. Four of the six panes show Chambon perfs. The set . . . . . £ 6.50

1219 3d Kowhai. Matching mint corner blocks of 24 from blue plate 5, showing (a) a prominent uncoloured flaw above and between the upper flowers on R4/6 and (b) this flaw retouched. The fine pair of flaw-and-retouch blocks £ 4.75

1220 (a) 2/- Taniwha. Marginal block of 4 on the original paper, including the large (and mysterious) "Teardrop" variety which occurred at R2/12 on some sheets £ 9.25

(b) As above. Two sheet value blocks of 4, one with the original (and erroneous) value £4 obliterated by two bars and the correct value £12 inserted above; the other with the '4' partly removed and '12' superimposed. The two mint blocks £11.50

1221 (a) 10/- Glacier. The big R16/4 retouch (OV20b) in mint selvedge block of 6 stamps on original paper £35.00

(b) As above. An exactly similar and equally fine block, also showing the variety but on chalk-surfaced paper £35.00

(c) As above. Constant but less extensive retouches appear on R12/4 and R13/4 – both are present in the ordinary paper block of 4 here offered. Mint £23.50

(d) As above. Another block including the same two varieties, but on chalky paper £23.50

1222 1967 2½c Kowhai. A very fine 'single value' variety collection of 19 mint blocks, each including at least one variety, many listed in our Catalogue, and all fully annotated. The specialised collection (141 stamps). £25.00

1223 1967 3c Puarangi. A similar, and equally fine specialist lot of 16 blocks (122 stamps). Again full annotation is provided. The 3c collection £27.50

1224 1968 10c Timber Industry (OD22a). Top marginal block of 6 showing a fine example of partial double perforations (not listed in this value). The block £ 7.50

1225 1967 $2 Magenta. The only variety of any note on this value occurred on R6/4 (ODV18a), here offered in superfine mint block of 8 stamps. The "geyser spouting stones" variety £37.50

1226 1967 Pictorial Booklet Panes. Complete set of 4 panes (½c, 1c six-stamp pane, 1c five stamps + label, 3c) all with XA in selvedge by lower stamps, and all fine used . . . . . £ 5.75

1227 4c Puriri Moth. Complete booklet pane of 6 stamps (unwatermarked) with a maginificent shift of the dark green wing veins. These are misplaced some 6mm to the right, and thus appear in the centre of the blue shield on each stamp. The spectacular pane (supplied with a normal pane for comparison). £15.00

1228 ½d Auckland Exhibition. A superb mint (unmounted) block of 4 from top of sheet with selvedge. Centring is, unusually for this stamp, well-nigh perfect. Now Cat. $25 per stamp (£20 each by S.G.). The block £55.00

1229 (a) 1935 Silver Jubilee 6d. Imprint/plate block of 4 stamps. Previously hinged, but fresh and very fine £45.00

(b) As above. Another imprint/plate block of 4, but finest used. Rare thus . . . £72.50

1230 (a) 1940 Centennial Officials. Complete mint set of 11, ½d–1/-. £28.50

(b) As above. The "Joined ff" varieties, complete set of all eight values (½d, 1d, 2d, 2½d, 3d, 4d, 6d and 8d). All are in mint top selvedge vertical pair with a normal except the 2½d, which occurred at a different position in the sheet, and is in a strip of three with side selvedge. Stamps are all unmounted, light hingeing being confined to the selvedges only £82.50

(c) As above. 1d value only – "Joined ff" in marginal pair with normal stamp, mint (SO27aZ) . . . . . £ 7.50

(d) As above. Marginal single of the 2d value with "Joined ff" (SO29aZ) £ 9.00

(e) As above. 3d with "Joined ff" in marginal pair with a normal stamp, mint (SO31aZ) £10.75

(f) As above. Mint strip of three 3d's, from the upper right corner of a sheet, with top and side selvedge. The left-hand stamp shows the "Joined ff", thus pin-pointing the variety to R1/10 (which was its sheet position in all cases except the 2½d). Seldom seen in positional piece £12.50

1231 1956 Southland Centennial. Set of three sheet value blocks of the 3d, one being normal, the others showing progressive stages of the plate crack which developed below the value marking. The three mint blocks (S70aY) . . . . . £ 6.00

1232 1965 Parliamentary Conference. An exceptionally fine single issue collection, with sheet value blocks and plate blocks complete (the 2/- plate block is of six stamps, to include the R10/10 retouch). Also present are blocks showing both listed varieties of the 9d – the "Missing Flagstaffs" is an excellent example in a plate block of 10. The collection of 9 blocks (44 stamps) superfine mint £45.00

1233 1969 Law Society. The 18c plates 1221 and 1a2a2a1a are rare (even when the issue was current, they were almost unobtainable). We can offer both, each in unmonnted block of 6 stamps, as a set at £52.50
(If the buyer of the above lot requires a complete set of plate blocks, we shall include, with the two rarities, the remaining 12 blocks – themselves cat. over £67.50 – at the very special inclusive price of £70.).

1234 N.Z. Christmas Issues. An absolutely complete set of plate and imprint blocks, 1960–1977 – a total of 77 blocks (450 stamps). A superb collection as it stands (and easily kept up to date by the addition of future annual issues), or an equally fine basis on which to build by including varieties. The Christmas Collection (Cat. £72.50+), another special offer £47.50

1235 (a) 1933 Health. Single copies showing the R2/1 Clouds flaw and the later retouch of this flaw. These varieties are always easily confirmed by the constant retouch to LT of HEALTH, which leaves these letters very much smaller than normal. The flaw-and-retouch pair, hinged mint £23.50

(b) As above. The second (retouched) state of R2/1, in pair with normal stamp. Superfine mint. £21.00

1236 PIGEON POST RARITY

Fine mint example of the One Shilling "Special Post" stamp overprinted "MAROTIRI/Pigeongram" (VP5) – far and away the rarest of all the Pigeon Post stamps (The J. R. Walker handbook records that the total printing was only 240) £450.

1931 "SMILING BOYS"

1237 (a) Brilliant mint (unmounted) set. Seldom available £150.00

(b) Another set, equally fresh and fine but lightly hinged £145.00

(c) Not-so-fine quality. Facial appearance good, but minor defects affecting gummed side. Excellent spacefillers for that otherwise impossible gap £35.00

(d) Superfine used set £135.00

(e) 2d + 1d value only, very good used £40.00

(f) Another 2d + 1d, fine used but with one corner slightly stained £30.00

RECENT ISSUES

Life Insurance Dept – New plate nos.

3c Baring Head (X29a). Imprint/plate block of 6 with plate nos 22 or 2a2a, each block 22p

4c Cape Egmont (X30a). Imprint/plate block of 4 with plate nos 32 or 3a2a, each block 20p

1977 Health Varieties

7c + 2c Block of 10 stamps (from pl. 1B) including R1/2 black flaw at top left border and R2/5 girl's hair notably darker than in other impressions. Both are constant varieties. The mint block 90p

7c + 2c Imprint/plate block of 10 stamps (from pl. 1A) including R10/5 "Watchstrap" variety – a very large black flaw – on girl's right sleeve. The mint block ..... £ 1.20

Postal Stationery

38c Registered Envelope with impressed stamp in the new design printed in scarlet on buff. Unused 50p

8c + 2c Provisional Envelope. The recent 8c envelope, surcharged "Additional 2c Postage Paid" in black 13p

Special Cancellations (all on the official 25c Pictorial Datestamp Service printed postcard)

22/8/77 International Symposium on Microbial Ecology/Dunedin N.Z. 30p

26/8/77 Golden Jubilee/St. John Ambulance Cadets/Wanganui N.Z. 30p

7/9/77 50th Anniversary/N.Z. Badminton Federation/Wanganui N.Z. 30p