

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N. Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

by Colin Hamilton

1940 Centennial 1/-. I seem to recall commenting in the past that the N. Z. Centennial issue in general is a potentially rich field for the specialist. The printers were Bradbury Wilkinson and Co. Ltd., and as was the custom of this firm, a multitude of plates was used in the production of this set—in the 1d value alone, there were 11 centre plates and 6 frame plates, and in the 2d, the numbers were even larger, at 12 and 10 respectively.

The strange fact is that no intensive study appears to have been made of the stamps, and consequently little of note has been recorded. It is difficult to understand why the set has been ignored in this way, since in addition to the ample potential of philatelic interest, the designs are attractive and the printing is recess-printing, both being factors which usually contribute to the popularity of an issue.

My colleague Derek Redshaw has made an interesting discovery which may prompt others to look more closely at the 'Centennials'. This was at first glance a quite ordinary strip of the 1/- value, with plate number A1 and imprint — but at the extreme lower edge of the selvage below the second stamp (i.e. below R10/5), there is a further marking in the colour of the centre plate. Part of this marking has been removed when the sheet was guillotined, but sufficient of it remains to suggest that it is another letter 'A' of the same size and type as the normal plate marking found to the left of the printer's imprint. This is new to us, and we can find no record of anything similar.

10c Coat of Arms, Plate 2A2A2A5A. Owners of this plate block may have noticed that the dark blue plate number '5' is a crudely formed figure, and shows distinct evidence of having been inserted by hand. But I wonder how many have also noticed that behind the '5' there are the faint but unmistakable remains of a figure '2'. Experience of recent years suggests that neither of these peculiarities is particularly remarkable (similar 'alterations' of plate number have been noted in other instances, and these phenomena presumably result from the use of old multipositives in the making of new plates). In this case, however, there is an added peculiarity which is puzzling. The '2' which forms part of the dark blue plate number 2A (and which, incidentally, is found only in the combination 1A1A1A2A), is in its overall shape totally different from the 2's which identify the later plates of the silver, light blue, and red colours. These latter three, seen in the combinations 2A2A2A3A, 2A2A2A4A and 2A2A2A5A, are all similar to each other in form, with the curved upper part of the figure meeting the horizontal stroke at an acute angle. In the dark blue '2', the shape is much more like a reversed 'S' with the curved part and the horizontal stroke forming a right angle. Now we come to the mysterious part — in the '5A' marking the remains of the '2' mentioned do not match the outline of the dark blue plate 2A figure. They closely

resemble a figure of the same type as those used to identify the other plates. Can anyone suggest a possible – and plausible – explanation?

KING EDWARD VII

- | | | |
|--|---|---------|
| 101(a) | <u>Colour Trials.</u> Top marginal blocks of 4 of the 4d (in yellow-green), 8d (in deep greyish blue) and the 1/- (in bright maroon). All printed on white unsurfaced card, and imperf. The set of three blocks, complete as listed on page 577 of Vol. 1 of the Handbook | £150.00 |
| (b) | <u>As above.</u> The same set of three colour trials, but single copies | £45.00 |
| 102(a) | <u>½d Green</u> (H1a). Marginal block of 4, superfine mint | £1.75 |
| (b) | <u>As above.</u> Brilliant mint top right corner block of 30 (6 x 5) with full selvages and sheet serial number. Large multiples are seldom seen. The big block, beautiful | £12.00 |
| (c) | <u>As above.</u> Block of 4 including the prominent "Flaw under NY" at R3/18 (H1aW), finest mint | £18.50 |
| 103(a) | <u>½d Booklet.</u> Pane of 6 complete with all selvages, from the 1912 issue with selvedge bars (W3bX) and showing notable blurring of the design. This example is pane no. 8 from the sheet as printed, proved by the presence of part of the sheet serial number at upper right. Fine mint | £60.00 |
| (b) | <u>As above.</u> Block of 4 from the same issue with both side selvages attached. Unmounted mint | £37.50 |
| (c) | <u>As above.</u> Booklet pair consisting of an ornamental star label (at left) and a stamp, with side selvages attached (W3bK), from the 1909 2/- Booklet, where ½d was charged to defray the cost of providing booklets, thus requiring one of the ½d panes in each booklet to be of five stamps only. A heavy diagonal crease affects the left selvedge and star label (clear of the design), hence | £20.00 |
| (d) | <u>As above.</u> Block of 4 comprised of 3 stamps and ornamental star label at bottom right, with side selvages and binding selvedge at foot. Due to the make-up of the plate, items with the star on the right are twice as rare as those with star at left. The block, fine mint | £110.00 |
| Note: A similar piece realised £150 at a recent auction. | | |
| 104 | <u>2d Mauve</u> (H2a). Three quite superb shades of this attractive stamp, used | £3.50 |
| 105 | <u>3d Perf. 14 x 14½</u> (H3a). Block of 6, strip of 3 and a corner pair (with sheet serial number), all mint and in fine contrasting shades. The makings of a beautifully balanced page | £37.50 |
| 106(a) | <u>3d Perf. 14 line</u> (H3b). Two first-class shade contrasts of a not-too-common stamp. Finest mint | £12.00 |

106(b)	<u>As above.</u> A used block of 6. Two stamps have defects but these do nothing to spoil the magnificent appearance of the block	£3.60
107	<u>3d Perf. 14 x 13½ (H3c).</u> The scarcest of all the "ordinary" Edwards, here offered in an outstandingly fine mint block of 4. A couple of slightly ragged perfs, otherwise absolutely immaculate. The rare block	£90.00
108(a)	<u>4d Red-Orange, Perf. 14 x 14½ (H4a).</u> Block of 4, superfine mint	£18.00
(b)	<u>As above.</u> Mint single from corner of sheet, with sheet serial number	£4.50
109	<u>4d Red-Orange, Perf. 14 line (H4b).</u> Fine used block of 4, with neat central c.d.s.	£9.00
110	<u>5d Brown.</u> Set of 3 used copies, one in each of the main perfs found in the Edwards — 14 line, 14 x 14½ and 14 x 13½. Useful as a reference set for perf. comparison. As long as stocks allow, we shall supply this set in contrasting shades.	£2.25
111	<u>6d Carmine.</u> Copy perf. 14 x 14½ (H6b) from a presentation set, with full gum, and cancelled diagonally across one corner by the two parallel black lines. Scarce and highly desirable	£12.50
112(a)	<u>8d Perf. 14 x 14½ (H7b).</u> Marginal block of 4 in indigo-blue. Superfine mint.	£12.50
(b)	<u>As above.</u> An equally fine block (again marginal), in a superbly contrasting shade of deep bright blue	£12.50
(c)	<u>As above.</u> The two listed shades in mint singles	£4.80
(d)	<u>As above.</u> Presentation copy (no gum), cancelled as lot 111 above	£10.00
113	<u>8d Perf. 14 x 13½ (H7c).</u> Marginal block of 4 in a deep bright blue. Condition superb — stamps are unmounted	£27.00
114	<u>8d Perf. 14 line, Sideways Wmk (H7e).</u> Vertical pair, the lower stamp being the variety No Watermark. This variety is very much scarcer than is generally realised, the spacing of the watermark bits being almost exactly the depth of the stamps. This pair has a little toning, visible on the back, but facial appearance is fine	£7.50
115(a)	<u>1/- Perf. 14 line (H8a).</u> Single copy, mint	£12.00
(b)	<u>As above.</u> Good used	£1.80
116(a)	<u>1/- Perf. 14 x 14½ (H8b).</u> Two mint copies, showing to perfection the shades of orange-vermilion and vermilion	£20.00
(b)	<u>As above.</u> The same two lovely contrasting shades, but fine used	£6.00
(c)	<u>As above.</u> Presentation copy, with full gum, and cancelled as lot 111 above ...	£20.00

Edward Officials.

- 117(a) ½d Green (H01a). Mint block of 4 in green or yellow green. Each block ... £7.50
- (b) As above. Another block of 4, with very prominent damage to OF of OFFICIAL on one stamp £8.50
- 118 3d Perf. 14 x 14½ (H03a). Mint block of 4 in chestnut or deep chestnut. Each block £7.50
- 119(a) 3d Perf. 14 x 13½ (H03c). Like its counterpart in the unoverprinted issues, this is the scarcest of all the Edward Officials. In a superlative mint block of 4, as here, it is a true rarity. The magnificent block £105.00
- (b) As above. Fine used copy, with neat c.d.s. £18.00
- 120(a) 6d Carmine, Perf. 14 x 14½ (H06b). Mint block of 4, fresh and fine £8.00
- (b) As above. Another block (marginal) in a notably brighter shade £9.00
- 121(a) 8d Perf. 14 x 14½ (H07b). Block of 4 in deep bright blue, finest mint £18.00
- (b) As above. Another block in the same shade, with bottom selvage. This block is remarkable in having the watermark inverted and the "one-dot" plate marking which appeared below stamps 6 and 7 in the bottom row. All Edward plate identification markings are rare, doubtless because they went unrecognised and were therefore not preserved by collectors. This one, in this form, is possibly unique. The plate block £85.00
- 122(a) 8d Perf. 14 x 13½ (H07c). Marginal block of 4 in deep bright blue. Superfine mint £18.00
- (b) As above. Contrasting block of 6 in a duller and deeper shade. One stamp has an insignificant pinhole (and is not charged) otherwise finest mint £18.00
- 123(a) 8d "Two-Perf" (H07d). Marginal block of 4 in the distinctive indigo-blue shade. Beautifully centred, and superb mint £30.00
- (b) As above. Another "two-perf" block in deep bright blue, this one with the variety Watermark Inverted. Fine mint and very scarce £75.00
- 124(a) 1/- Perf. 14 x 14½ (H08b). Mint copy in vermilion or orange-vermilion, each £11.00
- (b) As above. Top-grade used copies, either shade at, each £6.00
- (c) As above. Dated used block of 4 in a full and bright vermilion. Faint creasing on one stamp is visible only from the back, and does not detract from the magnificent appearance of the block £22.50
- (d) As above. Used strip of 4, also dated, but in a much paler shade than the block offered above. Finest condition £24.00

KING GEORGE VI

- 125(a) ½d Green (M1a). Eight (yes 8) blocks of 4, each in a contrasting shade of green, together with an imprint block of 8. The 40 mint stamps £7.50
- (b) As above. Five mint singles in differing shades of green £1.00
- 126(a) ½d Chestnut, fine HM paper (M1b). Plate numbers 17 and 19, both represented by right and left selvedge blocks of 4, an imprint block of 8, and three shade blocks of 4. The 36 stamps, all mint £2.00
- (b) As above. Four fine shades of chestnut, mint 25p
- 127(a) ½d Chestnut, fine VM paper (M1c). Plates 100 and 101 in corner blocks of 6, and the two Catalogued shades, each in block of 4. A near complete collection £1.85
- (b) As above. Imprint/plate 101 in corner block of 6 50p
- 128 ½d Chestnut, coarse VM paper (M1d). Imprint/plate (111) in block of 6, together with three shade singles. All mint 75p
- 129(a) 1d Scarlet (M2a). 46 mint stamps, including both Catalogued shades in blocks of 4, an imprint block of 8 without plate no., imprint/plate no. 25 in strip of 4, block of 4 from a booklet with plate no. 5 (wink upright), and 13 other pieces showing plate nos. in either right or left selvedges. Cat. approx. £45, but a few tones allow the price of £15.00
- (b) As above. The two listed shades, fine mint (blocks pro rata) 35p
- 130 1d Green, fine HM paper (M2b). Mint block of 4 of a quite elusive stamp 75p
- 131 1d Green, fine VM paper (M2c). A lovely lot, containing 5 blocks of 4 in varying shades, and 16 different plate/imprint blocks – complete except for the very rare plate 26. The collection of 132 mint stamps £12.50
- 132(a) 1d Green, coarse VM paper (M2d). Once again five shade blocks of 4 (and what contrasts they are!) together with no less than 32 different plate/imprint blocks, and a block of 6 with an inking flaw. 252 mint stamps, a very few tone spots and one or two splitting perfs, but condition overall is very good (Cat. £50 +) £35.00
- (b) As above. Set of 14 plate/imprint blocks, included are plates 112, 113, 114, 116-125 and 128 (block of 4). The 82 mint stamps £7.50
- (c) As above. Four stamps in shades of green, mint 50p
- 133 1d Green, coarse HM paper (M2e). Imprint/plate no. 85 in mint block of 8 £5.00
- 134 1d on ½d Green (M3a). Imprint block of 8, and three shade blocks. 20 stamps, all mint £2.25

- 135 1½d Chocolate (M4a). Mint block of 4 with plate no. 20 in left selvage. Scarce £6.00
- 136(a) 1½d Rose-red, fine HM paper (M4b). A complete set of plate blocks of 4 (plate nos 20 and 21 both in right and left selvages), and an imprint block of 8, supplemented by three shade blocks of 4, and varieties R8/18 (plate 20) and R4/10 (plate 21) in blocks of 12 and 4 respectively. The superb collection of 52 mint stamps £16.00
- (b) As above. Three mint, each in a contrast of Rose-red 40p
- 137(a) 1½d Scarlet, coarse VM paper (M4c). The two Catalogued shades in blocks of 4, imprint/plate nos 20 and 21 each in block of 8, and plates 129, 130, 131, 136 and 137. The 44 mint stamps £5.00
- (b) As above. Plate nos 20 and 21, each in mint block of 8. The two mint blocks ... £1.25
- 138(a) 2d on 1½d Chocolate (M5a). Five lovely shades, ranging from chocolate, through to a remarkably bright red-chocolate, each in mint block of 4 – a superb page in the making £2.50
- (b) As above. A similar set of 5 shades, mint singles 50p
- 139(a) 2d Yellow-orange, coarse VM paper (M6a). A complete set of plate/imprint blocks (21 different), plus five shade blocks of 4 and a positional block of 12 including the R5/24 variety. The attractive mint collection £12.50
- (b) As above. 16 different mint imprint/plate blocks, including plate nos. 40, 44, 46, 51, 54, 55, 61, 62, 68, 75, 76, 80, 82, 140, 141 and 143. One or two splitting perfs, but condition otherwise is fine £7.50
- (c) As above. 5 mint stamps in lovely contrasts of yellow-orange. The shade set 50p
- 140(a) 2d Yellow-orange, coarse HM paper (M6b). Imprint/plate nos 79, 81, 86, 87, 88 each in block of 8 stamps, and two shade blocks of 4. The 7 mint blocks £7.50
- (b) As above. Imprint/plate no. 86 in mint block of 8 £1.25
- 141 3d Blue, fine HM paper (M7b). Imprint/plate no. 27 in mint block of 8. Cat £5+, but minor tone spot allows £2.50
- 142(a) 3d Blue, coarse VM paper (M7c). A “Rhapsody-in-Blue” set of 6 delightful shades, each in mint block of 4 £4.00
- (b) As above. Eight different imprint/plate blocks (only plate no. 39 needed for completion), together with a block of 18 which includes R8/5 (plate 45) variety and a positional block of 20 (final two vertical rows from plate 39) which shows a variation in intensity of blue, from darker at the top to pale at the bottom. The 10 mint blocks (98 stamps), a fine lot £15.00
- 143(a) 4d Magenta, fine VM paper (M8a). Complete set of both imprint/plate (nos. 90 and 94) blocks £1.80
- (b) As above. Three stamps each in a different magenta shade, mint 50p

143(c)	<u>As above.</u> The same set of shades, but in mint blocks of 4 (one set only available)	£2.25
144	<u>5d Grey, fine VM paper</u> (M9a). Complete set of two plate blocks (nos 91 and 96) each in mint block of 6, and 3 mint singles in varying shades of grey. 15 stamps	£9.50
145(a)	<u>6d Carmine, fine VM paper</u> (M10a). Four lovely carmine shades, each in block of 4, and imprint/plate nos 92 and 98 in blocks of 6. The six mint blocks	£7.50
(b)	<u>As above.</u> Plate nos 92, or 98, each in mint block of 6 (please state preference). Each block	£1.80
146(a)	<u>8d Violet, fine VM paper</u> (M11a). Complete set of three imprint/plate blocks of 6 (plate nos 93, 95, 99) and two violet contrasts in blocks of 4. The 26 mint stamps	£6.00
(b)	<u>As above.</u> This time three contrasts of violet, represented by 3 mint stamps	£1.25
147	<u>9d Brown-sepia, fine VM paper</u> (M12a). The three Catalogued shades (brown-sepia, reddish-sepia and sepia) each in imprint/plate block of 6. The 3 mint plate (no. 97) blocks	£13.50
148	<u>9d Brown-sepia, coarse VM paper</u> (M12b). Three shades in blocks of 4, and plate nos 97 and 135 each in corner blocks of 6. The 24 mint stamps	£16.00
149(a)	<u>1/- upright wmk, HM paper, centre die 1</u> (M13a). A variety collection, including two plate blocks of 6 (one with and the other <u>without</u> the R15/2 flaw), block of 10 showing R2/1, 2/2 and 5/1 varieties, two blocks of 4 with transient flaws, and two single stamps in the listed shades. The 28 mint stamps	£17.50
(b)	<u>As above.</u> Plate block of 4 with the R15/2 flaw, mint	£2.00
150(a)	<u>1/- wmk sideways</u> (M13b). Two blocks of 4 in startling shades (of both the centre and frame colours), a plate block of 4, bottom selvedge block of 4 with R16/5 re-entry, and block of 10 with R12/9, 13/9 and 16/9 retouches to the centre plate. 26 mint stamps	£12.50
(b)	<u>As above.</u> Plate no. 1-1, in mint block of 4	£2.00
(c)	<u>As above.</u> The R16/5 re-entry in bottom selvedge block of 4, mint	£3.00
151(a)	<u>1/- wmk upright, VM paper, centre die 2</u> (M13c). Another variety collection, including positional block of 12 with R10/7 re-entry, both plate blocks of 4, and three single stamps in the listed shades. The 23 mint stamps	£15.00
(b)	<u>As above.</u> Set of two plate blocks of 4 (plate nos 3A-2, 4-2) mint	£4.80
152(a)	<u>1/3 wmk sideways, frame die 1a</u> (M14a). Both plate blocks of 4 (2-1, 3A-1) are supplemented by a block of 6 with R10/3 re-entry, two blocks of 4 (wmk sideways and the variety wmk sideways-inverted) and two single stamps in contrasting shades. The variety collection of 24 mint stamps	£12.50
(b)	<u>As above.</u> Mint single with wmk sideways-inverted (M14aZ)	60p

- 153(a) 1/3 wmk sideways, frame die 1b (M14b). Two single stamps in differing shades, a plate block of 4 (3A-2) and block of 4 with R13/5 frame plate retouch (this interesting variety shows characteristics similar to frame die 1a, while the other normal stamps in the block are frame die 1b). The 10 mint stamps £6.50
- (b) As above. Plate 3A-2 in corner block of 4, mint £2.00
- 154 1/3 wmk upright (M14c). Plate 4-2 in corner block of 4, and further block of 4 with the R13/5 frame plate variety described in lot 153a above. The two mint blocks £12.00
- 155 2/- wmk upright (M15a). Plate (1-1) block of 4, and another block of 4 in widely varying contrasts of both the green frame and the brown-orange centre. The two mint blocks £3.75
- 156(a) 2/- wmk sideways (M15b). Plate (1-1) block of 4, single stamp on thin paper, two further blocks of 4 (one wmk sideways, the other wmk sideways-inverted), single stamp with R12/3 flaw and a large multi-variety positional block of 18 (includes R9/9, 10/9, 11/9, 12/9, 13/9, 15/8 and 16/9 varieties). — a total of 32 mint stamps — full annotation supplied £18.00
- (b) As above. Plate (1-1) in corner block of 4, mint £1.80
- 157 3/- Red-brown and Grey (M16a). Both plate (2-1, 3A-1) blocks of 4, and two additional blocks of 4 (with wmk sideways and wmk sideways-inverted). The four mint blocks £17.50
- 158 3d on 1d Green (M18a). Eight different plate blocks (complete except for the scarce plate 109) and three shade blocks of 4. An unusually fine showing £7.50
- 159 1d on ½d Chestnut (M19a). Both plate blocks of 6 stamps each, and two shade blocks of 4. An inexpensive but attractive page in the making £1.00
- 160 Officials. Collection of no less than 34 plate/imprint blocks, including ½d chestnut, 1d green x 13, 1½d red, 2d x 4, 3d x 6, 4d, 6d x 2, 8d, 9d, 1/- x 3 and 2/-. Very seldom seen these days in such depth, and a superb basic lot for expansion. A few tone spots, otherwise fine mint. (Cat. £80+) £60.00
- 161 1/- Official. Mint copy of the sideways wmk issue, but with variety wmk sideways-inverted (MO13bZ) £5.00

162 1969 CAPT. COOK MINIATURE SHEETS

A complete set of all six recorded types (list of identifying characteristics included). Individual sheets are already difficult to find — a set such as this would be almost impossible to duplicate nowadays. The six miniature sheets £57.50

163 1967 PICTORIAL COUNTER COILS

Each of the nine 'coil' values (2½c, 3c, 4c, 6c, 8c, 10c, 15c, 20c Taniwha, 20c Meat Industry) represented by (i) a coil pair, (ii) a wrapper and (iii) a centre paper. A complete display of these interesting items — and with the different coloured papers used for the leaders/tails, a highly colourful one, too. One set only, to the first order £25.00