

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N. Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

by Colin Hamilton

28c Fox Glacier. We have heard of a mint block of 4 of this stamp with inverted watermark (but at the time of writing we have not seen this item). Should the identification prove to be accurate — and it is difficult to imagine that there could be any mistake, since the block has selvage attached, and the watermark is a straightforward "upright-inverted", without the complications which seem to accompany sideways watermark varieties — this block would be the only one known to us; in fact it would increase the entire known quantity by 500%. The sole previously recorded example (a used copy) was discovered some nine years ago — in this country, incidentally — by our old friend Allan Berry.

1967 Lighthouse 1c on 1d Provisional. Offered elsewhere in this Bulletin (lot 215) is a block of extraordinary interest, demonstrating again the lengths to which some security printers seem to have been prepared to go to avoid destroying (and thus having to account for) a spoiled sheet. The block is of 24 stamps (4 x 6) from the top left corner of a sheet which had suffered serious damage in the form of a long, roughly vertical tear affecting the second and third vertical rows. The major part of this tear has been beautifully repaired by patching with a wedge-shaped piece of paper, torn rather than cut to shape, to give a 'feathered' edge and thus an almost invisible mend.

That is not the end of the story, for curiously the patching has been effected on the front, i.e. the design side of the paper. This unusual manner of working has produced a beautiful variety, and at the same time allows us to trace the history and sequence of the damage and the repair, for it so happens that the centre plate (i.e. blue) printing is missing from the entire patched area (on close examination it is present underneath the patch). From the evidence we can deduce with certainty that the chronology was as follows:

1. The central part of the design (the blue plate) was printed normally.
2. The tear damage occurred.
3. The tear was noticed, and repairs effected in the manner already described.
4. The frame design (the grey-olive plate) was printed on the patched sheet.
5. The sheet was perforated and went into stock.
6. At a much later date, the sheet was surcharged with the decimal value.

From a philatelic point of view, the resulting variety is akin to a reel join, in that nine of the stamps in the block are printed on double paper. The big difference, of course, is that eight of these stamps show the additional variety "centre partly omitted".

It is also interesting that this sheet presumably escaped the eye of the checkers on two quite separate occasions — firstly after the original printing was completed, and secondly, after the surcharging process. But since the repairs are so cleverly done, this is scarcely surprising.

1969 — 1976 Lighthouses. It is now evident that two readily distinguishable types of paper have been used in the production of this series. Although not markedly dissimilar in visual appearance, the standard test for chalk surfacing (touching with silver) immediately shows the difference — the first paper does not react, whereas the second takes a very pronounced black pencil-like mark. In spite of appearances, therefore, the former can be described as "unsurfaced", the latter "heavily chalk-surfaced". The following is a check-list of the two types to date:

- (a) **Unsurfaced:** ½c (all), 2½c (all), 3c (printings from plates 11 and 1a1a), 4c (printings from plates 11 and 1a1a), 15c (all).
- (b) **Heavily Chalk-Surfaced:** 3c (printings from plates 22 and 2a2a), 4c (printings from plates 22, 32 and 3a2a), 8c (all), 10c (all).

These differences will be fully listed in our Catalogue in due course.

BETTER SETS AND SINGLE ITEMS

A random selection of superior material from stock.

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|--------|--|---------|
| 201 | First Sideface 5/- A <u>very</u> fine used (dated) example of this rare stamp. Free of all the defects which so often afflict copies — no tears, no thins, no creases, no missing perfs, no "killer" postmark, no poor centring. In short, a credit to the finest of collections | £200.00 |
| 202 | 1d Universal. Basted Mills paper, perf. 11 x 14 (G3c). Marginal block of 4 (incidentally with watermark reversed). Brilliant mint | £6.25 |
| 203 | As above. Two blocks of 4, one mint and one used, of the first Cowan Watermarked Paper issue, perf. 14 (G5a). Both blocks show advanced plate wear, that of the used block in particular being just about as extreme as we have seen. Condition is of the finest, the mint being unmounted, and the used with neat central c.d.s. The most unusual pair of blocks | £3.25 |
| 204 | As above. Royle Plates, perf. 14 (G10a). Three mint blocks of 4 (incl. a corner block) in a remarkable range of deep rich shades, one of which has pronounced aniline characteristics. A lovely display of vibrant colour, condition again glorious | £25.00 |
| 205(a) | As above. Fine mint copy of the rare 'Royle' perf. 11 (G10b). 1978 Gibbons cat. £75, must be attractive at our price of | £40.00 |
| (b) | As above. Another copy, <u>slightly</u> defective, but superfine appearance. A bargain spacefiller at | £17.50 |
| 206 | 1d Dominion Official. Marginal block of 4 with lithographed 'wmk' (J05a). Not a common stamp. The block, perfect mint | £6.00 |

- 207 **As above.** Another immaculate block, but on Cowan paper (J06a) £4.50
- 208 **K. G. V ½d Official.** Corner block of 4, with sheet serial no., of the Cowan perf. 14 x 15 issue (KO13e), in which the upper pair of stamps has been officially patched in. This was done because of excessive wear affecting the top row of impressions on the plate. Vol. 1 of the Handbook (page 468) states ".....The wearing became so bad that towards the end of the issue, the top row was removed from the sheet and a row from another sheet was patched into position". The interesting block, mint £10.00
- 209 **1935-43 Pictorials.** A long, long set of 68 stamps, covering both the Registered and Multiple Watermark issues. Every C.P. Catalogue number is represented with just three exceptions (L2b, L13d and L14c), and in the case of the final issue of the 2/- (L13g), copies from plates 1, 2 and 3 are included. Overall condition is very fine mint. Total Cat. value now £157.50+. One set only available at £125.00
- Note:** We shall give priority on the waiting list for the three missing items to the purchaser of this set, if requested.
- 210 **10/- Queen on Horseback.** The only notable variety on this value was a major retouch affecting R3/17 and 3/18 (illustrated and described on Perm. page N14 of our Catalogue). The mint pair here offered shows this extensive yet seldom seen variety (NV16a) to perfection £70.00
- 211(a) **1960 Pictorial 4d Chalky Paper (06b).** A perfect mint copy - rare thus. Needless to add, this item carries our unconditional guarantee that it is correctly identified (we emphasise the fact merely because of the number of wrong identifications of this variety we have seen over the years). The rare 4d Chalky £85.00
- (b) **As above.** Imprint/plate strip of 4. There are many surviving plate number pieces showing the no. 2333 (as the 'chalky' must), but the overwhelming majority of these are on the earlier paper; this is one of less than a dozen known to us on the chalk-surfaced paper. Again fully guaranteed, and supplied with a matching normal strip for comparison. Unhinged mint £325.00
- 212 **1906 Christchurch Exhibition.** Set of 4, very fine used. All four stamps have neat c.d.s cancellations (without any suggestion that they are c.t.o.). A clean, fresh and very scarce set, now Cat. £250+ £200.00
- 213 **1959 Red Cross.** Mint positional block of 6 including R13/6 in its original flaw state (SV84a). Infinitely scarcer than the subsequent retouch. The block also includes the nice constant 'Retouch to South Pole' at R11/6 £75.00
- 214 **1971 Health 3c + 1c.** Mint copy with multicolour offset, resulting in a delicate impression of the entire design on the back of the stamp. A delightfully attractive variety (T43aZ), with normal stamp for comparison £11.00
- 215 **1967 Life Insurance 1c on 1d Provisional.** The unique block of 24 (described in this month's 'Notes') with nine stamps 'Printed on double paper', and eight of these having 'Centre partly omitted'. An exhibition item £125.00

Note: If unsold as it stands, we may consider breaking the above block into three smaller units, (priced at £45 per piece) each showing all the salient points of interest. Inquiries invited.

1920 VICTORY

216	½d — 1/- Set. Set of 7 stamps, one of each value, finest mint (S9a - S15a)	£30.00
217	Shade Set. Superb set of <u>all the Catalogued shades</u> , including ½d (4), 1d (3), 1½d (2), 2d on ½d (3), 3d (2), 6d (3) and 1/- (2). Condition good to superb mint. (Cat. £80+). A comprehensive and seldom seen set	£55.00
218(a)	½d Green. (S9a). Block of 4, unmounted mint and superb	£3.00
(b)	As above. Three contrasts of green, each represented by an unmounted mint block of 4. Most unusual	£10.00
(c)	As above. Two stamps in contrasting shades of green and deep green, fine mint	75p
(d)	As above. Mint single showing the uncatalogued variety Letters Wmk. Lovely addition to a collection	£4.50
219(a)	1d Carmine. (S10a). Delightful set of 6 shades, all mint, ranging from deep carmine through to carmine-pink. Transform a relatively ordinary stamp into a lovely display !	£3.00
(b)	As above. Lovely used block of 4	50p
(c)	As above. Mint block of 4 with watermark inverted (S10aZ). Some foxing (barely affecting appearance), but a rare block	£10.00
220(a)	1½d Orange-brown (S11a). Unmounted mint block of 4, superb	£2.50
(b)	As above. Four shades, mint. The 4 stamps	£1.00
(c)	As above. Letters wmk variety, mint single	£4.50
221(a)	2d on ½d Surcharge (S12a). Yet again an unmounted mint block of 4. Superlative	£3.50
(b)	As above. Superb used (c.d.s.) single of this stamp, considerably more elusive than is suggested by the price of	20p
222	3d Chocolate (S13a). A magnificent mint block of 4, in "straight-from-the-printers" condition	£35.00

1940 CENTENNIALS

A mainly inexpensive selection of variety lots, many of which we have never offered before.

223(a)	½d Maori Landing (S26a). Set of four blocks of 4, two in contrasts of green and two imprint/plate blocks (plate nos 1L and 2L). A lovely album page for someone	£1.00
(b)	As above. Four green shades, all mint	50p
224	1d Capt. Cook and Chart (S27a). Six mint singles, each in a differing shade of the scarlet coloured frame— in addition the chocolate centres also show a fine range of intensities	£2.50

- 225(a) **1½d Five Sovereigns** (S28a). A small, but attractive, variety collection of six mint blocks of 4. Imprint/plate blocks A1 and A2 are supplemented by three shade blocks and a corner block including the R1/1 frame plate 1 variety (as mentioned in Volume 2 of "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand") £4.50
- (b) **As above.** A short time ago we offered a very popular mint set of three shades. Now a fresh supply of stock has enabled us to make up a lovely set of four shades of mauve, all mint £1.50
- 226 **2½d Treaty of Waitangi** (S30a). Imprint/plate no.A1, mint block of 4 45p
- 227 **3d Settlers at Petone Beach** (S31a). Three startling contrasts of the carmine frame colour, mint £1.25
- 228 **4d Progress of Transport** (S32a). Three mint shades of the frame colour, including a copy in a very bright glowing purple. Lovely £3.00
- 229(a) **5d H.M.S. Britomart** (S33a). Imprint/plate block of 4, mint. This is a quite difficult value £1.65
- (b) **As above.** Four widely differing contrasts of the brown frame, ranging from red-brown through to a deep brown, mint £2.00
- 230 **6d Refrigerated Transport** (S34a). Imprint/plate block of 4, mint £3.00
- 231(a) **7d Maori Council** (S35a). Unmounted mint block of 4, superfine — this stamp was the least used of all the Centennials (under 600,000 were sold) £3.50
- (b) **As above.** Imprint/plate block of 4, mint £4.50
- 232 **8d Maori Council** (S35b). Imprint/plate block of 4, mint £4.50
- 233(a) **9d Gold Mining** (S36a). Volume 2 of the Handbooks, records the frame colour as varying in intensity from orange to a deep red-orange. The mint set of three here offered shows this shade range to perfection £7.50
- (b) **As above.** Imprint/plate B1 (mint block of 4) in the second state, with the new plate no. 1 re-inserted leaving traces of the original no. 1 alongside. Cat. \$45, offered at £18.25
- 234(a) **Centennial Official Overprint Varieties.** A selection of 16 mint stamps, ideal for the overprint enthusiast. Included are the well-known R1/10 "joined ff" variety (1d, 2d, 3d values), copies of the 1d and 2d with flattened tops to both f's, a 2d stamp in the grey-black overprint shade, and 10 other stamps (½d, 1d x 4, 1½d x 2, 2d, 4d, 9d) showing different variations to the overprint — due either to faulty/worn stereotypes or poor application during the overprinting operation. The 16 mint official variety stamps, superb specialist material (full annotation provided) £27.50
- (b) **As above.** A similar selection of 16 used stamps, including a 2d with grey-black ovpt, 3d in dull brown-red ovpt, and 14 other stamps (½d x 2, 1d x 3, 2d x 4, 3d x 2, 6d x 2, 9d). again all with differing overprint varieties. The 16 used stamps (description supplied) £13.50

235	1½d Centennial Official (SO28a). Complete set of two imprint/plate blocks of 4, plate nos A1 and C1. Mint	£2.00
236	2½d Centennial Official (SO30a). Imprint/plate block of 4, mint	60p
237	8d Centennial Official (SO35b). Imprint/plate block of 4, mint and very elusive	£20.00

RECENT ITEMS

7/12/77	Firefighting 10c, 11c, 12c, 23c. Set of 4 mint or used	53p
	Imprint/plate blocks — complete set of 8 blocks of 6	£6.65
	Imprint/plate blocks — set of 4 (one each value)	£3.35
	Official illustrated F.D.C. (Wanganui pmk)	65p

7/12/77	10c New Definitive. Single mint	10p
	Imprint/plate block of 10 stamps, pl. no. 1A x 5 or 1B x 5, each	£1.00
	Official First Day Cover (Wanganui pmk)	18p

12c Artifacts — Imprint/plate block of 6 with new plate number A211	70p
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1977 Collectors Pack. The following special issues, (listed in order of issue):
 1977 Anniversaries, Silver Jubilee, Education, Beach Scenes, Healths, Christmas.
 Attractively presented in a full-colour folder giving background details of each
 issue. Price, post paid

£3.75

1977 First Day Cover Pack. Informative P.O. folder containing 8 official illustrated first day covers — of the six issues listed above, plus the Life Insurance 8c and 10c of 17/11/76, and the Artifacts issue of 24/11/76. The pack, post paid—

£3.95

Special Postmarks. (on the Pictorial Date-stamp Service printed postcard).

31/10/77	Asian and Oceanic Postal Union (AOPU) Meeting, Rotarua	30p
17/11/77	100th Rose Show, Bulls N.Z.	30p

Postal Stationery

10c Envelope, imprinted stamp in red on white, unused	13p
7c + 3c Provisional Postcard, green on white, unused	15p
38c + 7c Provisional Registered Envelope, unused	55p

1977 Health Varieties (full details will be supplied with each block).

7c + 2c Block of 10 stamps (from pl. 1B) including R1/2 and 2/5 varieties, both constant. The mint block	90p
7c + 2c Imprint/plate block of 10 stamps (from plate 1A), including a large black flaw on R10/5. The mint block	£1.20
8c + 2c Marginal block of 12 stamps, including three good varieties at R6/7, 6/8 and 8/9	£1.25
8c + 2c Corner block of 12 stamps with prominent varieties on R2/8 and 3/7 ...	£1.50
8c + 2c Marginal block of 6 stamps, incl. good varieties on R2/2 and 3/3	£1.00