

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N. Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

by Colin Hamilton

Auckland Exhibition 6d. Volume 1 of the Handbooks records, on page 671, the ½d Edward and 1d Dominion with a forged "AUCKLAND/EXHIBITION/1913" overprint, adding that "this forged overprint probably exists on the 3d and 6d Edwardians as well".

Partly confirming this suggestion, I have recently seen - offered as genuine, incidentally - a copy of the 6d with an overprint which corresponds closely with the Handbook description of the forgery. In general appearance this overprint is poor and ill defined, as compared to the genuine. In particular the outlines of the letters are rough and ragged, and the corners tend to be rounded rather than sharply angled. The overall shape of the individual characters resembles the genuine quite closely, the most notable differences being the following:

1. In the genuine, the legs of the A's form the two equal sides of an isosceles triangle (if this triangle were completed, the angles formed at the bottom would be exactly equal). In the forgery, the left leg of the A slopes slightly further away from the vertical than the right leg. The two legs are therefore not quite equal in length, and the resulting letter is not quite symmetrical.
2. The hollow interiors of the A's, the D and the B in the forgery are distinctly different in shape from those of the genuine.

In height, the letters of the forgery are very slightly shorter, and this coupled with a difference of nearly ½mm in the overall depth of the overprint (measured from the top of 'AUCKLAND' to the foot of '1913', the forgery is almost 12mm, the genuine 11½mm), results in visibly wider spaces between the three lines of characters. Although the overall dimensions of the forgery are not notably different from the genuine, close comparison of the positioning of letters, in relation to those above and/or below, reveals several minor variations from the genuine overprint

Finally, in the example seen the overprint was not quite horizontally placed on the stamp, the right side being slightly lower than the left, and the cancellation (it was a 'used' copy) was apparently circular, but its details were unreadable - neither of these peculiarities is necessarily characteristic of the forgery, of course.

Like almost all forgeries, this one would not fool an experienced eye, but it is dangerous on two grounds. Firstly, the majority of collectors would, in all probability, not be too familiar with the genuine overprint, nor would they be likely to have a comparison copy at hand. Secondly, I suspect that most more experienced, specialist collectors would tend to accept a 6d Auckland as a 6d Auckland, judging it solely against the usual criteria of soundness, centring, freshness, attractiveness, etc.

I should add that this is the first and only example of this forgery (on any value) that I have seen. There are two others recorded. In one of these (which I have never seen) the letters are described as being thin, and the 'X' is in the form of a simple cross, whereas in the genuine the two halves of each of the diagonal lines which form this letter do not form a straight line. The other, of which I have seen several examples, is immediately identifiable by the differing alignment of 'AUCKLAND' in relation to 'EXHIBITION', the first 'A' being directly above the 'E'.

28c Fox Glacier. I suppose it had to happen! My mention last month of the (unconfirmed) existence of a mint block with inverted watermark proved to be, as they say, "up the Swanee".

In the meantime, my colleague Warwick Paterson has examined the block in question. Warwick tells me that it was displayed alongside another block, both with gummed side uppermost, and that the watermark was apparently inverted all right — but only because the block had been turned upside down, as well as face downwards!

Almost incredible, but it does vindicate the wisdom of our general policy (as publishers of the authoritative N. Z. specialised Catalogue) of insisting that we actually see any new variety prior to listing it, even at the risk, occasionally, of giving the reporter of a genuine discovery the impression that we don't believe him. To do otherwise would result in some curious listings. A recent example which springs to mind concerned the brown 8d Q. E. definitive of 1959. A copy was reported to us as having reversed watermark — as such, it would have been quite a major variety. On inspection, however, the stamp was absolutely normal. The finder had been confused by the ordinary multiple watermark pattern. On this copy, the star of one watermark 'bit' appeared in the upper centre of the stamp, the 'Z' of a second 'bit' in one lower corner, and the 'N' of a third in the other lower corner. Quite unexceptional, yet to the finder this constituted a reversed watermark — and we have a suspicion that we never did persuade him of the truth!

For the present, then, the 28c Fox Glacier 'invert' remains a truly unique item, listed on the strength of a solitary used copy - which we ourselves have seen.

Late again. As many readers may already know, the release of the Commemorative set and the 25c/2½c Life Insurance provisional stamp, both originally due on 1st February, has been postponed until 8th March. The official reason given ("a delay in printing") is rather puzzling if, as seems to be the case, it applies to both issues, since different printers must surely be involved. It is almost inconceivable that the surcharging of the Life Insurance stamp was placed with Messrs. Harrison & Sons.

Correction. The serial number of last month's issue of the N. Z. Bulletin should have read Volume XV Number 7 (not No. 2).

LITERATURE

- 301 **"The Postage Stamps of New Zealand", Volume 6.** The latest in the series of magnificent Handbooks, published in a limited edition of 1000 copies by the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand. Now available from stock, post paid price £28.85
- 302 **"New Zealand Post Offices"** by R. M. Startup. The long-awaited new (1977) edition of this invaluable reference work. Users of the 1967 publication under the same title will find this new edition greatly enlarged and improved, and completely revised. Price (incl. postage) £11.25
- 303 **N. Z. Postal Stationery Catalogue, Part 3** by R. D. Samuel. A detailed and priced listing of registered envelopes, newspaper wrappers, etc. Price (incl. postage) £3.25

FIRST SIDEFACES

- 304(a) **2/- Pale Claret** Fine mint (hinged) example £180.00
- (b) **2/- and 5/-** Very fine mint (lightly hinged). Both are beautifully fresh copies, the 2/- being a brilliant deep shade. An exceptional pair, rare £425.00

½d MOUNT COOK GREEN, BLOCKS

- 305 **1900 Perf. 11, Pirie paper (F1a).** Mint block of 4, two stamps with re-entries (one major, one minor). Superb £6.50
- 306(a) **1900 Perf. 14x11, Pirie paper (F1c).** Mint block of 4 in the green shade ... £10.00
- (b) **As above.** A similar mint block of 4, in the deep green shade £10.00
- (c) **As above.** Mint block of 6, stamps slightly off-centre to the right, but attractive £15.00
- (d) **As above.** Very fine mint block of 4, with plate 1 re-entry at R2/16 £17.50
- (e) **As above.** Another fine mint block of 4, this time with the R4/17 re-entry from plate 1. This block is in a vastly different shade to the previous lot £16.50
- 307(a) **1900 Perf. 11x14, Pirie paper (F1d).** A large block (of 8 stamps) centred slightly to the right and with a few faint tone spots, but a lovely multiple and scarce thus £14.50
- (b) **As above.** Finest mint block of 4 £12.50
- (c) **As above.** Mint block of 4, which includes the fine plate 4 R4/7 re-entry. A vertical crease (not visible from the front) affects two stamps and allows the price of £10.00
- 308 **1901 Perf. 14, Basted Mills paper (F2b).** Superlative mint block of 4, including the same plate 4 R4/7 re-entry £19.50
- 309(a) **1901 Perf. 11x14, Basted Mills paper (F2d).** Unmounted mint top marginal block of 4 (with divisional arrow). A truly superb block – with reversed watermark, incidentally £15.00

309(b)	As above. Another unmounted (non marginal) block of 4, again with wmk reversed, in a notably deeper shade	£10.00
310	1902 Perf. 14, Cowan unwmk'd paper (F3b). Three mint block of 4, in fine contrasting shade of green. Two of the blocks are very heavy blurred prints, much of the finer detail in the design being lost, while the third block is a relatively clear print. Minor defects affect the backs of all three blocks, but a very attractive set	£10.50
311	1902 Perf. 14x11, Cowan unwmk'd paper (F3c). Marginal block of 4, fresh unhinged mint. A considerable rarity (Cat. £24 per stamp). Centred somewhat low, otherwise superb, and a bargain at	£50.00
312	1902 Perf. 14, Cowan wmk'd paper (F4b). Three superbly contrasting shades in mint blocks of 4 (one marginal, another a corner block with sheet serial no.)	£6.50
313	1902 Perf. 11x14, Cowan wmk'd paper (F4c). Fine mint block of 4, one stamp showing minor top-frame re-entry	£7.25
314	1907 New Plates, Perf. 14x12½-13¼ (F5b). Unmounted mint block of 4 in the scarcer dull green shade. Superb	£9.00

KING GEORGE V ADMIRALS

These "sleeping giants" of the N.Z. middle issues have now begun to stir. In the quality of the first four lots offered below, they are almost unobtainable.

315(a)	Jones Paper. A marvellous set of two matching marginal blocks of 4, unhinged mint. Both the 2/- and the 3/- have the watermark inverted (according to volume 1 of the N.Z. Handbook, the ratio of 'inverts' to wmk upright is about one to three). The two blocks, brilliantly fresh	£425.00
(b)	As above. The set in mint singles (the 2/- is unhinged, the 3/- a marginal copy, lightly hinged). Again both have inverted wmk	£84.00
316(a)	Cowan Paper. The set of two, unmounted mint and superb in all respects	£85.00
(b)	As above. Superfine used copy of the 3/-, beautifully centred and with light, neat centrally-placed c.d.s. In a word, perfection	£62.50
(c)	As above. Another 3/-, somewhat heavier c.d.s., but still a very fine used example of this stamp	£50.00
(d)	As above. Marginal mint block of 4 of the 2/-. Glorious appearance, but an area of slight gum discolouration (not foxing, and not affecting the design side in any way). Now Cat. \$40 per stamp, a bargain at	£60.00

MINIATURE SHEET VARIETIES

- 317 **1958 Health.** These miniature sheets were printed from plates, each of which contained eight groups of six impressions, and constant characteristics allow sheets from any position to be individually identified. We can offer a set of 16 mint miniature sheets (eight of each value), representing a complete re-plating. The complete reconstruction, with full plating details - a specialist's delight £30.00
- 318 **1958 Health Tent Retouches.** Due to plate wear, seven impressions on the 3d+1d plate were retouched, and sheets from four of the eight positions exist showing these retouches, all of which affect the shading of the tent on the extreme right. The following examples are available, all in complete miniature sheets:
- (a) **Sheet number 3**, with retouch to stamp no. 6. Finest used, with first day cancellation £6.00
 - (b) **Sheet number 4**, with retouch to stamp no. 6. Mint or finest used, each £6.00
 - (c) **Sheet number 8**, with retouches to stamps 3 and 6. Finest used with first day cancellation £11.75
 - (d) **As above.** A remarkable example, from a very late printing. Further extensive and advanced plate wear is evident (now affecting much larger areas of the design), the retouching having all but disappeared. The mint sheet, rare in this state £17.50
- 319(a) **1959 Health.** As with the 1958 sheets, re-plating of individual sheets is possible, and the set of 15 mint miniature sheets here offered is a complete reconstruction, with the exception of sheet no. 3 of the 3d+1d (if desired, we shall note the purchaser's requirement of this sheet to complete the set). The 15 miniature sheets, full plating details again included £35.00
- (b) **As above.** Sheet no. 2 of the 2d+1d showing, on stamp no. 4, the attractive "black-eyed gull". Constant on sheets from this position, and a naked-eye variety. The mint variety sheet £3.00
- 320 **1963 Health.** Another nice variety occurs on stamp no. 4 of some sheets of the 3d+1d, in the form of a prominent red flaw, popularly dubbed "Jam on shirt". Offered in complete miniature sheet of 6 stamps, mint £3.25
- 321 **1964 Health 2½d+1d.** Mint miniature sheet with, on stamp no. 4, an easily seen white flaw on the smaller bird's wing £3.60
- 322 **1972 Health 3c+1c.** Mint miniature sheet showing, on stamp 2, a clear crescent-shaped flaw immediately below the boy's racket-hand £3.00
- 323 **1974 N.Z. Day.** Two flaws on stamp 5 (some sheets only) give the girl in foreground a new hair-style, with clasp at left and parting at-right! The variety sheet £1.25
- 324(a) **1977 Silver Jubilee.** Complete set of the 12 different types of sheet, with full identification supplied. The Silver Jubilee reconstruction, mint £20.00
- (b) **As above.** The same set of twelve different miniature sheets, but **fine used**, and very scarce thus £25.00

- 324(c) **As above.** Stamp 2 of sheet no. 9 has a large naked-eye retouch to the background to the right of the Queen's forehead. Mint sheets showing this retouch are available at, each £1.25

- 325 **1977 Health.** Two readily identifiable types of this miniature sheet exist, one with a large "butterfly" by the cluster of toadstools at left centre, the other without this flaw. The set of two miniature sheets, mint £2.25

(For collectors already having one of these sheets, we can supply either type individually at £1.25 each).

3d AIR MAIL, PERF. 14x15 (V1b).

We cannot recall ever previously having handled six copies of this unquestionably rare stamp simultaneously - but here they are now!

- 326(a) **Block of 4.** Superfine mint marginal block £395.00
- (b) **Horizontal Pair.** Equally fine (one stamp unmounted, the other with barely discernible hinge-mark) £180.00

(To break the block would be philatelic sacrilege, but we would consider separating the pair, subject unsold, to sell at £90 each stamp).

Q.E. COMMEMORATIVE AND CHRISTMAS VARIETY COLLECTIONS

- 327 **Sterling Issues.** A collection of 218 stamps (all finest mint) covering the period 1953-67. 44 different variety pieces (some being multi-variety blocks) including many listed in our Catalogue - inverted wmk's, partial double perfs, flaws, retouches and differing state varieties are all represented (full annotation supplied). Individual selling prices total £145+, so rare opportunity at, the collection £75.00

- 328 **Decimal Issues.** Companion collection to the above lot, covering the 1967-77 Q.E. decimal period. No less than 349 stamps (55 different variety pieces) and 3 miniature sheets are included - again many of the varieties are Catalogued. Individual selling prices this time total £200+. The decimal variety collection (with full description provided), excellent buying at £125.00

- 329 **1913 AUCKLAND EXHIBITION**

The complete set of four values on large part of a registered cover to Germany. Additional ½d and 4d Edward adhesives make up the 1/3d rate. All six stamps are beautifully tied by light clear separate strikes of the "EXHIBITION AUCKLAND" c.d.s. of 28th March, 1914, and the piece (which is backstamped Halberstadt, 6th May, 1914) also bears the rare Exhibition registration label. Superb condition and a marvellous exhibition piece in every sense £395.00

Note: Although the Auckland Exhibition stamps were valid to prepay postage only on inland mail, and mail to Australia, the peculiar fact is that most of the few covers bearing complete sets that we have seen have been addressed to Germany, and have shown no evidence of official interception.

HEALTH MINIATURE SHEETS

Year	Mint	Year	Mint	Year	Mint
1957wmks/w	£3.60	1963	£4.80	1970	£4.50
1957wmk upr	£9.00	1964	£6.00	1971	£3.60
1958	£3.60	1965	£5.40	1972	£3.60
1959	£4.80	1966	£3.60	1973	£3.60
1960	£12.00	1967	£3.60	1974	£3.00
1961	£4.80	1968	£3.60	1975	90p
1962	£5.10	1969	£3.60	1976	90p

HEALTHS

C.P	S.G.	1929 - 1941 Issues	Mint	Used
T1a	544	1929 Nurse	£9	£9
T1a	544	block of 4	£45	£45
T2a	545	1930 Nurse	£18	£18
T2a	545	u/m block of 4	£90	---
T3a/b	546/7	1931 Smiling Boys mint are u/m	£150	£135
T4a	552	1932 Hygeia	£13.50	£18
T5a	553	1933 Pathway	£9	£12
T5a	553	u/m block of 4	£45	---
T6a	555	1934 Crusader	£5	£7.20
T6a	555	u/m block of 4	£25	---
T7a	576	1935 Key	£1.50	£1.80
T8a	598	1936 Lifebuoy	45p	£1.80
T9a	602	1937 Hiker	£1.50	£2.10
T10a	610	1938 Children	45p	90p
T11a/b	611/2	1939 Beachball	£1.50	£3.45
T12a/b	626/7	1940 Beachball	£3.00	£4.20
T13a/b	632/3	1941 Beachball	£1.50	£3.00

1942 - 1977 Issues.

C.P.	S.G.	Year	Mint	Used	F.D.C.
T14a/b	634/5	1942	30p	45p	---
T15a/b	636/7	1943	12p	42p	---
T16a/b	663/4	1944	12p	24p	---
T17a/b	665/6	1945	15p	15p	60p
T18a/b	678/9	1946	13p	12p	60p
T19a/b	690/1	1947	12p	12p	60p
T20a/b	696/7	1948	12p	12p	60p
T21a/b	698/9	1949	12p	12p	60p
T22a/b	701/2	1950	12p	12p	60p
T23a/b	708/9	1951	12p	12p	60p
T24a/b	710/1	1952	12p	12p	---
T25a/b	719/20	1953	12p	12p	---

HEALTHS cond.

T26a/b	737/8	1954	18p	15p	---
T27a-c	742-4	1955	87p	90p	£1.80
T28a-c	755-7	1956	54p	54p	£1.20
T28a(2)	755a	1956	90p	£1.20	---
T29a/b	761/2	1957	36p	36p	72p
T29c/d	761a/2a	1957	£1.50	---	---
T30a/b	764/5	1958	18p	15p	60p
T31a/b	776/7	1959	30p	24p	---
T32a/b	803/4	1960	30p	30p	---
T32c/d	803a/4a	1960	£1.80	---	---
T33a/b	806/7	1961	30p	30p	---
T34a/b	812/3	1962	21p	21p	60p
T35a/b	815/6	1963	21p	21p	---
T36a/b	822/3	1964	24p	24p	60p
T37a/b	831/2	1965	18p	36p	---
T38a/b	839/40	1966	24p	48p	---
T39a/b	867/8	1967	18p	18p	60p
T40a/b	887/8	1968	18p	18p	60p
T41a-c	899-901	1969	£1.10	£1.45	£2
T42a/b	940/1	1970	33p	30p	90p
T42a-c	960-2	1971	48p	48p	£1.20
T43a-c	960-2	1971	48p	48p	£1.20
T44a/b	987/8	1972	12p	12p	60p
T45a/b	1031/2	1973	12p	12p	60p
T46a-c	1054-6	1974	24p	24p	60p
T47a-c	1079-81	1975	24p	24p	60p
T48a-c	1125-7	1976	36p	36p	60p
T49a-c	---	1977	32p	32p	40p

RECENT ITEMS

\$ 1 Geothermal Power. New plate number 2111 in imprint/plate block of six stamps **£5.45**

As above. Stamps from this new plate are in a shade (of the purple) which contrasts nicely with the printings from plate 1111. Mint singles from the new plate are available at (blocks pro rata) **90p**

Special Cancellations (each on the Special Data-Stamp Service Postcard)

4 Jan. 1978 Third Asia-Pacific (Scout) Jamboree, Oamaru **30p**

9 Jan. 1978 Ninth ACETA (Australasian Commercial and Economics Teachers' Association) Conference, Christchurch **30p**