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N. Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

by Colin Hamilton

King George V 5d "Two-Perfs": For just on half a century — in fact ever since 5d two-perf sheets are recorded as first appearing in 1929 — it has been universally accepted that all such sheets were printed in the pale ultramarine shade, and certainly all the two-perf pieces I have seen over the years have supported this contention. Recently, however, I had the good fortune to have in front of me simultaneously, and from different sources, a mint block of 4, a mint pair and a used pair. The mint pair was unexceptional, in that its shade was the expected, normal pale ultramarine. The used pair, on the other hand, was uncommonly akin to a steel-blue, while the block was in a striking rich blue shade, totally different from the usual pale ultramarine. As regards the "steel" pair, I would not care to draw any definite conclusions on the strength of one used example, but the blue block is another matter. It was in brilliant fresh mint condition, so fresh that it's difficult to conceive that the colour was a false one.

So is this another instance where the accepted facts have to be re-assessed? Regular readers will know that this is not a new situation, especially among the recess-printed K.G.V. issues. And there is already some indication that the facts as known until now need not necessarily be accurate or complete. For instance, Volume 1 of the Handbook records that the appearance of 5d two-perf sheets was simultaneous with the changeover from blue ink to pale ultramarine "early in 1930". However, it is known beyond doubt that sheets of other values were appearing in two-perf form long before this, and indeed in the case of the 5d itself, the same reference also records that in March 1926, sixteen sheets of the 5d were issued **with the perforations missing from the top half of the sheet**. These sheets were in the blue shade. As discussed in our Notes a month or two ago, all of these partly-imperf K.G.V varieties were almost certainly directly connected with the method of perforating sheets in two operations, so it is as near certain as can be that the two-perf method in some form was being used for the 5d prior to the change to ultramarine ink. If that is so, is it not a strong possibility that some sheets in blue had the top five rows perf 14x14½, and the bottom five rows perf. 14x13½ - especially since the only other instance of this form of perforating (the rare 4d Plate 44 "two-perf") was issued in 1927?

Readers are asked to check carefully the shades of any 5d two-perf pieces in their collections, and we shall be very interested to see any pairs or blocks which appear to be other than pale ultramarine.

FINE PENNY UNIVERSALS

- 201 Mint Reference Set.** For the first time in literally years, we have been able to make up two comprehensive mint sets of these fascinating and to many, puzzling stamps. Each set comprises: (1) London Print, one copy (G1a); (2) Pirie paper, perf. 11, three superb shades (G2a); (3) Pirie paper, perf. 14, one copy (G2b); (4) Basted Mills paper, perf. 14, one copy (G3b); (5) Basted Mills paper, perf. 11x14, one copy (G3c); (6) Cowan unwatermarked paper, perf. 14, two lovely shades (G4a); (7) Local plates Cowan Watermarked paper, perf. 14, two superb shades, one being from a worn plate (G5a); (8) Reserve plate, perf. 14, one copy (G6a); (9) Booklet plate, one copy, very bright shade (G7a); (10) Dot plates, perf. 14, one copy worn plate (G8a); (11) Dot plates, mixed perfs, one copy (G8d); (12) Waterlow Trial plates, perf. 14, one copy (G9a); (13) Royle plates, perf. 14, two glorious shades (G10a); (14) Royle plates, comb perf. 14x14½, one copy (G10f). All stamps are guaranteed correctly identified, of course, and condition is exceptionally fine throughout.
The mint "Universals" sets, as described, to the first two orders (better to telephone for these!) each £70.00
- 202 London Print. (G1a). Block of 4, mint and fine** £12.00
- 203 (a) Pirie Paper, Perf. 11 (G2a). Two mint blocks, showing brilliant shades, One block centred to left otherwise fine mint** £5.50
- (b) As above. Well-centred block of 4, with full bottom selvedge, in carmine-lake. Magnificent!** £22.50
- 204 Pirie Paper, Perf. 14x11 (G2d). Fine used copy of a very scarce stamp** £30.00
- 205(a) Basted Mills Paper Perf. 11x14 (G3c). Superfine mint, well-centred block of 4 (incidentally with wmk inverted)** £9.00
- (b) As above. Similarly fine block, this one with wmk inverted-and- reversed** £9.00
- 206 Basted Mills Paper, Mixed Perfs. (G3e). Fine mint copy, originally perf. 14 all round, with misplaced vertical perfs reperfed 11. Some official patching** £18.00
- 207 Cowan Unwatermarked Paper, Perf. 14 (G4a). Mint block of 4, centred a little high, but fine** £7.50
- 208(a) Cowan Unwmk'd Paper, Perf. 14x11 (G4c). Block of 4, vertical perfs rather rough (as 11's almost invariably are, on all issues later than G2a), but an exceptionally fine block of this scarce stamp** £57.50
- (b) As above. Single copy, mint** £13.50
- 209 Cowan Unwmk'd Paper, Mixed Perfs. (G4d). Very fine mint block of 4, perf. 14, reperfed 11 vertically down the centre, with full official patching. Although no selvedge as such is present, this block is clearly from the bottom right corner of a sheet, the perfs at right and bottom being seriously misplaced (but without any re-perfing) leaving very wide gutters on the stamps on these sides. Further confirmation - the upper right stamp shows a good re-entry, (R9/24, plate 1), while the adjacent stamp R9/23 is also a re-entry, with clear doubling of some of**

	the letters of UNIVERSAL - this latter variety is not recorded as a re-entry in the Handbook. All of this is a bonus for the buyer, since we are offering the item as a normal mixed perfs block at	£90.00
210	Cowan Wmk'd Paper, Local Plates Perf. 14 (G5a). Another bottom right corner block (without the re-entries, and therefore from plates 2 or 3), with variety Imperf Horizontally (G5aY). Some creasing, but fine fresh appearance unaffected. The block	£45.00
211(a)	Cowan Wmk'd Paper, Local Plates, Perf. 11 (G5b). One of the great "Universal" rarities. Very fine mint example	£150.00
(b)	As above. but superb used (even rarer than mint!)	£150.00
212(a)	Cowan Wmk'd Paper, Local Plates, Perf. 11x14 (G5c). Another rare and seldom seen stamp, Fine mint	£60.00
(b)	As above Used copy, a little off-centre, but very fine with c.d.s. cancel	£50.00
213(a)	Cowan Wmk'd Paper, Local Plates, perf. 14x11 (G5d). Yet another scarce stamp (although our impression is that we have seen rather more of these over the years than the 11x14s). Finest mint	£45.00
(b)	As above Another copy, equally fine, showing the Plate 1 R9/24 re-entry. This must be rare!	£60.00
214	Reserve Plate, Perf. 11x14 (G6c). Yet another of the 1d Universals you just never see around. Finest mint	£160.00
215(a)	Reserve Plate, Mixed Perfs (G6d). Very fine mint example (with official patching) in a deep rich shade, so typical of all but the latest of the Reserve plate printings .	£100.00
(b)	As Above. Lovely used copy, dated late 1905, in the same characteristically deep shade as the mint copy offered above	£95.00
216	Booklet Issue (G7a). An absolutely superb mint pane of 6 with complete binding selvage at bottom (W2bZ), from position no. 17. Not even a trace of rust around the staple holes. The magnificent booklet pane	£120.00
217	Dot Plates, Perf. 14 (G8a). Mint block of 4 in a deep bright almost aniline shade. One stamp with corner crease, but beautiful appearance	£4.75
218	Dot Plates, Mixed Perfs (G8d). Mint pair from one of the Dot Plates in its early (unworn) state, in a glorious deep shade. The pair is most unusual, in that it could be separated to provide one stamp perf. 14 all round (G8a) and one with mixed perfs 11 and 14. Some gum missing, and extensively hinged, but superb facial appearance	£5.00
219(a)	Waterlow Trial Plates, Perf. 14 (G9a). Mint block of 4 from rows 1-2 of a sheet printed from Plate W1. Unmounted	£10.00

(b)	As above. Matching pair of plate blocks of 4 stamps each, showing the distinctive plate numbers W1 and W2 respectively in the bottom selvages. Shades are quite outstanding, the W1 block being in a rich full aniline carmine, the W2 is in a soft rose-carmine. The two plate blocks, brilliantly fresh	£90.00
(c)	As above. Mint horizontal pair with variety Imperf Vertically (G9aZ), from plate W2. Light diagonal crease (invisible on face side), otherwise fine and fresh	£40.00
220	Waterlow Trial Plates, Perf. 11 (G9b). Very fine dated used copy (from Pl. W2) of this, one of the two or three rarest issues of all the 1d Universals. The first example we have handled for many years	£160.00
221(a)	Royle Plates, Perf. 14 (G10a). Three blocks of 4 in brilliant shade contrasts, including a delightful pale bright rose-carmine. Condition superb	£20.00
(b)	As above. Marginal block of 4 in the pale bright shade mentioned above. Facial appearance magnificent, but a horizontal crease allows	£5.00
(c)	As above Two plate blocks, showing the Royle Trial Plates nos R1 and R2, and in noticeably different shades. An interesting point for the inquiring mind - the R1 block carries a set-off of the plate no. R2 on the reverse, while the R2 block has a similar set-off of R1! The pair of plate blocks, superfine mint	£85.00
222(a)	Royle Plates, Perf. 11 (G10b). Very fine mint block of 4. This issue is the exception to the rule that, after G2a, perf. 11's are usually rough and ragged. In the Royles, they are neat and clean-cut. The block, extremely scarce in this fresh condition ..	£225.00
(b)	As above. Single stamp, finest mint	£45.00
223(a)	Royle Plates, Perf. 14x11 (G10c). Mint block of 4, wonderfully fresh, but centred a little to the right	£135.00
(b)	As above. Single copy, superfine mint	£37.50
224(a)	Royle Plates, Perf. 11x14 (G10d). Block of 4, brilliant mint	£150.00
(b)	As above. Single stamp, in rose-carmine, finest mint	£37.50
(c)	As above. Another copy, but in an outstandingly bright aniline shade - totally different from lot (b) above	£45.00
(d)	As above. Single copy, fine used (c.d.s.), but a little off-centre	£30.00
225(a)	Royle Plates, Mixed Perfs (G10e). Mint block of 4. Lower pair of stamps creased - not affecting lovely fresh appearance. A real bargain offer at	£75.00
(b)	As above. Single copy, fine used (dated)	£35.00
226	Royle Plates, Perf. 14x14½ (G10f). Last but not least - a glorious mint block of 4, very well centred for this comb perf. issue. Slight reinforcement of horizontal perfs, otherwise immaculate	£90.00

1898 - 1908 PICTORIALS

A continuation of last months listing of these much sought after issues.

227(a)	4d White Terrace (Ella). Unmounted mint single, being the Catalogued R5/5 re-entry (EV11d)	£9.50
(b)	As above. Set of 4 contrasting shades, mint. Tiny gum-thin on one stamp, otherwise superb	£22.50
(c)	As above. Similar set of 4 shades, but used, One stamp has a few clipped perfs, otherwise fine	£27.50
(d)	As above. Used single with the R2/9 re-entry (EV11c). Minute thin spot	£5.00
(e)	As above. Used single in a brilliant bright shade, including the R10/9 re-entry. Lovely	£12.00
228(a)	4d Lake Taupo, Perf. 11 No Watermark (E12a). Mint set of 7 all with differing colour of the frame, and showing a good contrast of the centres. Not all absolutely top grade, but an attractive set at	£15.00
(b)	As above. Mint block of 4, two stamps hinged and of lovely appearance	£15.00
(c)	As above. Mint single with the R8/10 re-entry (EV12b)	£5.00
(d)	As above. Set of 6 used stamps in contrasting frame shades, with a fine variety of centre colours too	£6.00
(e)	As above Used single with the centre plate R3/5 re-entry	£6.50
229	4d Perf. 11, Watermarked (E12b). The two listed frame shades of chestnut and yellow chestnut. Very good mint	£5.75
230(a)	4d Perf. 14 (E12c). The four listed shades, mint. One stamp creased	£12.50
(b)	As above. Mint vertical pair, the lower stamp with frame re-entry R8/10. Superb appearance, but diagonal crease allows	£4.50
(c)	As above. Used copy with watermark reversed (E12cW)	£4.50
(d)	As above. Four shades of the frame, used	£7.50
231	4d Mixed Perfs (E12e). Used single of the rare mixed perfs variety, with chestnut frame. Now Cat. £150	£100.00
232	4d Perf. 14x12½-13¼ (E12f). Used single	£6.50
233	5d London Print (E13a). Used set of 7, includes 3 different red-chocolate shades and four chocolate shades, one of which borders on sepia. Fine set	£25.00
234(a)	5d Perf. 11, No Watermark (E13b). Mint set of 3, chocolate and two red-brown shades. Fine	£17.50

(b)	As above. Lovely set of 5 differing shades, all used	£10.75
(c)	As above. Used single with the R10/11 re-entry	£3.00
235(a)	5d Perf. 11, Watermarked (E13c). Two glorious mint blocks of 4 in startling shade contrasts of red-brown (wmk sideways-reversed) and deep brown (wmk sideways). We can only repeat, glorious blocks	£75.00
(b)	As above. Four excellent shades, including the scarce sepia. All used	£20.00
236(a)	5d Perf. 14 (E13d). Brown and red-brown, single copies, mint	£15.00
(b)	As above The same two shades, but used	£5.25
237(a)	6d Green, London Print (E14a). Mint copies in green and deep green, neither absolutely perfect, but an attractive pair of fine appearance (Cat. £48)	£25.00
(b)	As above. The same two listed shades, used	£22.50
238	6d Green Perf. 11 No Watermark (E14b). The three Catalogued shades (deep-green, pale green, yellow-green), one or two trimmed perfs on one stamp, otherwise superb used. Now Cat. just under £100	£60.00
239(a)	6d Red, Perf. 11, No Watermark (E14c). Mint set of 3 glorious shades, from a delicate rose, through rose red, to brick red.	£30.00
(b)	As above. The same three shades, but used	£15.00
(c)	As above. A lovely set of 7 stamps used, and all in varying shade contrasts. A shade aficionado's dream	£25.00
240(a)	6d Red, Perf. 11, Watermarked (E14e). Lovely mint pair, imperforate at top (E14eY)	£27.50
(b)	As above. Mint vertical pair in rose, with left selvage attached, one stamp shows letter wmk and the other "no wmk" - both stamps show only a tiny portion of a 'star' wmk. Slight toning on one stamp only	£15.00
(c)	As above. Two stamps (both have left selvage attached) in the startling carmine pink shade - one stamp shows a complete letters wmk, the other is virtually no wmk (only the smallest trace of a wmk is visible). Light creasing on both stamps does not detract from this superb variety pair	£17.50
(d)	As above. Set of 6 stamps, all Catalogued shades bring represented. Very colourful set and seldom available	£40.00
(e)	As above. Used single with a near full "Letter" wmk	£5.00
(f)	As above. Used set of 3 stamps, showing watermark variations of sideways, sideways-inverted, and sideways inverted and reversed	£9.00
241(a)	6d Red, Perf. 14 (E14g). Set of 3 listed shades, used	£8.50
(b)	As above. Used single with the R9/5 re-entry, listed in Vol 1 of the Handbook ...	£6.50

242	6d Red Mixed Perfs (E14j). Used copy (c.d.s.) in rose-carmine, of this true rarity. Minute faults (pinholes) do not mar its fine appearance. Now Cat. £100+ an opportunity not to be missed at	£30.00
243(a)	8d London Print(E 16a).Mint single in Prussian Blue	£10.00
(b)	As above. The two listed shades, used	£15.00
244	8d Perf. 11, No Watermark (E16b). Two shades, deep blue and prussian blue, both used	£10.00
245	8d Perf. 11, Watermarked (E16c). Two used in blue and deep blue, the latter stamp showing the superb re-entry at R10/9 (EV16b)	£17.50
246	8d Perf. 14 (E16d). Two used, in contrasting shades of blue	£6.50
247(a)	9d Perf. 11, No Watermark (E17b). Two used copies, in differing shades of purple	£7.50
(b)	As above. Used single with the R6/6 re-entry, as detailed in Vol.1 of the Hand-book. Slight creasing (unnoticeable from the front)	£10.00
248	9d Perf. 14 (E17d). Mint set of 3 stamps, one with sideways Letter wmk, the second with upright Letter wmk, and the third with the normal NZ and Star wmk. Gum crease on one stamp, otherwise fine (incidentally, all three stamps are in differing shades of purple)	£27.50
249(a)	1/- London Print (E18a). Two lovely mint stamps, in striking shade contrasts	£22.50
(b)	As above. Three fine differing shades of orange-red, all used	£17.50
250	1/- Perf. 11, No Watermark (E18b). Set of 6 shades, all used. An eye-catching set!	£15.00
251(a)	1/- Perf. 11, Watermarked (E18d). Three mint copies, glorious shade contrasts	£30.00
(b)	As above. No less than five shades, all used, and most attractive	£10.00
(c)	As above. As in previous sideways wmk values, we can offer a set of three 1/-'s wmk sideways, sideways-inverted, and sideways inverted and reversed, all used	£7.50
(d)	As above. Used single, with part Letters wmk	£3.00
252	1/- Perf. 14 (E18e). Used set of 5, superb shade contrasts. Yet another eye-catching set	£15.00
253	2/- Milford Sound. Set of 4 stamps, including London Print (E20a), Perf. 11 unwatermarked (E20b), Perf. 11 watermarked (E20d) and perf. 14 (E20e). Set of 4 basic printings, used, fine and very desirable	£90.00
254(a)	2/- Perf. 11, No Watermark (E20b). Glorious set of 3 used shades. It's years since we were last able to offer a similar set	£47.50
(b)	As above. Two used variety stamps, showing the R6/10 (EV20c) and R9/9 re-entries. The set of two used variety stamps	£40.00

255	2/- Perf. 11, Watermarked (E20d). Used shade set in green, blue-green and deep green. Very scarce	£55.00
256(a)	2/- Perf. 14 (E20e). Two used, in fine contrasts of green. A little light creasing, but fine appearance	£30.00
(b)	As above. Used copy with the R9/9 re-entry	£25.00
Reduced Designs.		
257	3d Perf. 14x15 (E10c). The two Catalogued shades, used	£10.00
258	6d Perf. 14 line (E15a). Used copy in carmine-pink	£1.50
259	6d Perf. 14x15 (E15c). Two different carmine-pink shades, used	£4.00
260	1/- Perf. 14x15 (E19b). Fine used example	£12.50

1978 ISSUES REVIEWED

Special Issues.

8th March. Anniversaries (10cx2 se-tenant, 12c, 20c). Set of 4, mint or used 50p; Imp./Plates complete set of 8 blocks (4x10c, 2x12c, 2x20c) £6.50; Imp./Plates, set of 3 blocks (one each value) £2.50; First Day Cover	60p
26th April. Agricultural Science (10c, 12c, 15c, 16c, 20c, 30c). Set of 6, mint or used 99p; Imp./Plates, complete set of 12 blocks (two each value) £11.00; Imp./Plates, set of 6 blocks (one each value) £6.25; First Day Cover	£1.10
7th June. Sea and its Resources (12c, 15c, 20c, 23c, 35c). Set of 5, mint or used 97p; Imp./Plates, complete set of 10 blocks (two each value) £11.75; Imp./Plates, set of 5 blocks (one each value) £6.25; First Day Cover	£1.10
2nd August. Health (10c+2c, 12c+2c). Set of 2, mint or used 24p; Imp./Plates, complete set of 4 blocks (two each value) £2.95; Imp./Plates, set of 2 blocks (one each value) £1.50; First Day Cover 30p; Miniature Sheet of 6 stamps (3 sets se-tenant)	75p
4th October. Christmas (7c, 16c, 23c). Set of 3, mint or used 42p; Imp./Plates, complete set of 4 blocks (2x7c, 1x16c, 1x23c) £2.10; Imp./Plates, set of 3 blocks (one each value)	£1.85;
First Day Cover	55p
1978 Collectors Pack. Special issues from Dec. 1977 to Oct. 1978, housed in attractive colourful P.O. folder	£3.95

Definitive and Other Issues.

25c Park, Perf. 14. New plates 44634, 4a4a6a3a4a, each block	£1.45
10c Queen's Portrait. New plates 2A1A1A1A, 2B1B1B1B, each block	£1.00
20c Tattoo, No Wmk, Reprint. Imp/Plate block (distinguished by printed brown blob alongside R10/1)	£1.15
50c Park, Reprint. Imp/Plate block of 8, with "REPRINT" printed in blackish-grn below R10/3-4	£3.95
1c, 2c, 5c Roses, 10c Queen's Portrait, 11c, 13c, 14c Artifacts Reprints. Complete set of 13 Imp/Plate blocks, all distinguished from original printings by identifying marks in selvages	£10.50
29th Nov. 20c, 30c, 40c, 50c Sea Shells. Set of 4 mint £1.25; Imprint blocks, set of 4 blocks	£7.75;
First Day Cover	£1.40
\$1 Booklet (1 pane of 10x10c Queen's Portrait). Pane with selvage at left or right, each booklet	£1.00
\$1.20 Booklet (1 pane 10 x 12c Artifact). Pane with selvage at left or right, each booklet	£1.15
1c, 2c, 5c, 10c Coil Stamps. Set of 4, mint or used 19p; Set in strips of 4, mint or used	70p
25c on 2½c Life Insurance. Single stamp mint 23p; used 30p; First Day Cover	40p
15c Life Insurance, Perf. 14. Single stamp mint 15p; used 18p; Imp/Plate blocks 111 or 1a1a1a, each block	95p