

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N. Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

by Colin Hamilton

N.Z.'s First Booklet. The example in our list of offers this month (lot 303) recalls to mind the last experimental booklet I think we handled, some nine or ten years ago. It arrived out of the blue, sent by a total stranger from, I believe, somewhere in Scotland. We were happy to offer the sender £50 – at that time an astronomical price for any booklet (how times change!) and he was obviously equally happy to accept. Not surprisingly, for he had, he told us, picked it up in a local junk shop for the princely sum of sixpence!

"Two-Perfs" (again!). Many readers of the Bulletin, and users of our Catalogue, will know that the ½d Mt Cook of 1907-8 was quite recently discovered in "two-perf" form, i.e. from sheets which were perforated in two separate operations, using different heads each gauging 14x15 (now listed in our Catalogue as F5d).

I can now fit yet another piece into the two-perf "jigsaw", a piece which adds weight to my theory that perforating sheets in two separate operations was a standard procedure of the Edward-George V period, **even in cases where it was demonstrably the same head that was used throughout a particular sheet.** In our Nov.1978 Bulletin, the existence of K.G.V vertical pairs and blocks showing (a) ragged and clean-cut perf strikes se-tenant, and (b) misaligned perf strikes se-tenant, was discussed at some length, and I suggested that both, whether occurring independently or in combination, were strong evidence of the use of the two-perf method.

A complete sheet of the above-mentioned ½d has furnished evidence of a quite different nature, and it is in my view quite conclusive. In this sheet the pattern of holes on the vertical sides of the stamps (representing the short rows of pins in the comb) proved beyond any question that the same head had been used throughout. The point was reinforced by a broken pin in one of these short rows, which resulted in a missing perf hole, repeating in every horizontal row. Elsewhere in the sheet, however, there was evidence of a broken pin in another of the short rows. In this case, the missing perf hole occurred **in the bottom five rows of stamps only**, whereas above that point in the vertical row concerned, all perfs were complete. Since the direction of perforating was from bottom to top of the sheet, this is a clear indication that a repair to the head was carried out after the bottom five rows had been perforated, and this in turn just as clearly indicates that two quite separate perforating operations must have taken place. It is of special note that, but for the fortuitous evidence provided by the repair, there would have been no clue whatsoever that this sheet had been two-perfed.

For the record, the sheet seen was from Plate 1, and all stamps had been overprinted with two vertical black lines. At one time, such stamps were thought to have been produced for inclusion in presentation sets, but it has since been pretty well established that they were supplied to Mr R.J. Dickie in connection with his work with slot machines. Several years ago a vast quantity (if my recollection is accurate, 92 complete sheets of 240 — all from plate 2) was offered for sale in a London auction, together with sundry other slot machine material, including a roll of 1d Universals as used in the trial machines of 1905. Offered as a single lot, it was described as having been sent for sale by the executors of Mr Dickie's heirs.

One or two later issues are known similarly defaced. I have seen the 1d Dominion (J1a) and ½d K.G.V. (K13a) — these would have been intended for the normal testing and adjustment of machines carried out internally by the post office.

K.G.V. 4d Violet, Officially Patched. Mr J.G.Evans of Yorkshire has shown me three separate examples of this variety in his collection. In one of these, a block of 12 (3x4), the upper block of 9 stamps is perf 14x13¼, attached by patching to a strip of 3 perf. 14x14¼. Although interesting (and making a nice block!) the different perfs are probably of no real significance, since in making good a damaged sheet, the only concern would be to replace the necessary number of stamps of the correct denomination, without regard to such niceties as matching the gauge of the perforations.

Patching-in has been a well-established practice for many years, but I cannot recall any other instances among the recess-printed K.G.V. issues. In the ½d Official of that period, however, the (worn) top row of stamps in some sheets on Cowan paper was removed and replaced by an undamaged row, using the patching-in technique.

SECOND SIDEFACE DIE PROOFS

A selection of the attractive and scarce A.E.Cousins proofs which are detailed on pp. 230–231 of Volume 2 of the N.Z.Handbook. All items offered are printed on unwatermarked wove paper, imperf., and show the complete design as issued. An opportunity to add an original die proof to your collection, at a price not to be missed.

301(a)	½d Value. Printed in deep slate-black	£17.50
(b)	As above, but in pale yellow-brown	£25.00
(c)	As above, but in yellow-brown	£25.00
(d)	As above, but in deep bistre-brown	£25.00
302(a)	5d Value. Printed in grey-black	£17.50
(b)	As above, but in dull pink	£25.00

1d UNIVERSAL BOOKLETS

303	1901 Experimental. 1s 0½d booklet from the very first supply (code no. 2000/2/1901 — 1022) of these experimentals, the panes for all of which were obtained by extracting the top three and bottom three rows from ordinary sheets of the Pirie paper, perf. 11 issues (G2a), and dividing these strips into vertical blocks of six. This example has had the stamps removed from one of the panes (the binding selvedge is still intact, together with the remaining pane, the covers and interleaving). Covers slightly soiled around the edges, but the contents are in absolutely brilliant fresh condition. The rare booklet (W1a)	£300.00
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- 304** **Definitive Issue.** 2s 6½d booklet, with stamps printed from the specially made Booklet Plate. This example is from the second supply early in 1903 — the cover carries the date 1902, but no code number. The first of the five panes has had four stamps removed, otherwise the booklet is intact, and in superb condition throughout. Another item of considerable rarity (W2bZ) £525.00

1d DOMINION

- 305** **Complete Set.** 8 mint stamps, representing all the basic issues listed in the C.P. Catalogue (J1a — J8a). £24.00
- 306(a)** **Litho Wmk Issue.** Fine mint example of the scarce variety "Watermark Printed on Front" (J5aZ). The N.Z. (in reverse) and Star are readily visible on the design side, but confirmation of the variety is found on the gummed side, where a right-reading shadow impression of the "watermark" is clearly evident £35.00
- (b)** **As above.** Mint copy of the even scarcer variety "Watermark printed on back and front" (J5aY). This shows the "watermark" as described in the previous lot **plus** a faint normal (wrong-reading) impression on the back. Cat. £120, offered at the special price of £85.00
- (c)** **As above.** Yet another very scarce variety — "Colourless Watermark and Horizontal Mesh" (J5aS). All too often copies of the much commoner "near colourless wmk" (invariably with vertical mesh) are identified as the good one. Our copy is of course guaranteed. Mint £35.00
- 307** **Booklet Pane.** The rare one, on De La Rue paper, in the ruby shade — distinctively rich and purplish (W4bX). The complete pane of 6 stamps, hinged in binding selvedge only. Tiny faint toning, otherwise superb fresh mint £150.00

K.G.V. TWO-PERF PAIRS

- 308** **Mint Set.** A magnificent lot of 18 "two-perf" vertical pairs, complete in all values and colours, 1½d—1/-, with the one exception of the very rare 4d plate 44 (K5j). The set comprises 1½d (3 pairs, incl. 'Pictorial' paper wmk'd and no wmk), 2d violet, 2d yellow, 2½d, 3d (2 shade pairs, one with worn plate characteristics), 4d yellow, 4d violet, 4½d, 5d, 6d, 7½d, 8d, 9d, 1/- (2 pairs, orange-vermilion and vermilion). Condition throughout is fine to very fine. Unrepeatable and superb buying at £550.00
- 309** **1½d Grey.** On 'Cowan' paper (K1c). Very fine mint (hinged) £24.00
- 310(a)** **1½d Grey.** On 'Pictorial' paper (K1f). Superfine mint £12.00
- (b)** **As above.** Another pair, not so fine (small stains), but good spacefiller £5.00
- 311(a)** **2d Violet** (K2c). Superfine mint £18.00
- (b)** **As above.** Not quite so fine, but excellent appearance, and very collectable, mint £10.00
- (c)** **As above.** Pair **commercially used.** Tiny perf defect, but lovely appearance, and very scarce (Cat. £24) £12.50
- (d)** **As above.** Used block of 4 (light parcel cancel). Nice £37.50

312(a)	2d Yellow (K2f). Block of 4 (marginal). Fine mint	£25.00
(b)	As above. Pair, superfine mint	£12.00
(c)	As above. Sound commercially used pair, with very pronounced misalignment of perfs.	£25.00
313(a)	3d Chocolate (K4c). Superfine mint pair, showing worn plate characteristics	£25.00
(b)	As above. Very good used pair (light parcel cancel). From unworn plate, and in a deep, deep shade.	£25.00
314	4d Yellow. Used pair (probably c.t.o.). A few slightly ragged perfs, superfine appearance	£12.00
315	5d Pale Ultramarine (K7c). Sound used pair, light parcel cancel — again with very marked perf misalignment	£27.50
316	6d Carmine (K8c). Sound used pair, parcel cancel (not too heavy). Cat. £60..	£40.00
317	7½d Deep Red Brown (K9c). Fine commercially used pair . Rare thus	£45.00
318(a)	8d Indigo-Blue (K10c). Block of 4, good mint	£37.50
(b)	As above. but pair (marginal), superfine mint	£24.00
(c)	As above. Superb used pair — seldom seen	£45.00
319	9d Sage Green. (K11c) Used pair, some facial defects, hence	£7.50
320(a)	1/- Vermilion (K12c). Used pair in deep vermilion. Wonderful appearance, but thinned area on back allows	£27.50
(b)	As above. Another used pair, in orange-vermilion. Sound condition, with neat light oval parcel cancel, but somewhat soiled area at left of upper stamp	£35.00
321	6d Official (K08c). Pair, fine mint	£35.00

K.G.VI PLATE BLOCKS

322	½d Chestnut, fine HM paper (M1b). Complete set of 7 plate and imprint blocks, including plates 17, 18 (scarce) and 19 in corner blocks of 8, both right and left selvages, and an imprint block of 8. Small thin on one stamp, otherwise fine mint	£8.50
323	1d Green, coarse VM paper (M2d). Imprint/plate no. 53 block of 8. A difficult item, mint	£6.00
324	1½d Chocolate (M4a). Plate no. 20 in right selvedge, mint block of 4	£12.00
325	1½d Rose Red, fine HM paper (M4b). Plate nos 20 and 21, corner blocks of 8 in both right and left selvedge, and imprint (no plate no.) block of 8. Mint, slight toning on the imprint block, otherwise very fine	£5.75

326	1½d Rose Red, coarse VM paper (M4c). Imprint/plate nos 20 and 21 in bottom selvedge blocks of 8. The set of 2 mint blocks	£1.20
327	2d Yellow-orange, coarse VM paper (M6a). Marvellous set of 19 different imprint/plate blocks, showing a brilliant range of shades. Complete set as listed in the Catalogue, except plate nos 41 and 145, Seldom offered	£10.00
328	3d Blue, coarse VM paper (M7c). Absolutely complete set of Imprint/plate blocks (nice shade range), with plate nos 39, 45, 57, 58, 63, 67, 69 all in blocks of 8, and plate nos 138 and 139 in blocks of 4. An unrepeatable offer	£12.50
329	4d Magenta, fine paper (M8a). Imprint/plate nos 90 and 94. Set of 2 blocks..	£1.80
330	5d Grey, fine paper (M9a). Both listed Imprint/plate blocks (nos 91 and 96), mint. Diagonal crease on one block, hence only	£6.00
331(a)	6d Carmine, fine paper (M10a). Complete set of three Imprint/plate blocks (nos 92, 98 and 146)	£6.00
(b)	As above. Plate no. 92 or 98 in mint block of 6. Each block (Cat. £1.80 per block)	£1.25
332	8d Violet, fine paper (M11a). Set of 3 imprint/plate blocks (nos 93, 95, 99) — the latter being in a very pale violet shade	£6.00
333	8d Violet, coarse paper (M11b). Imprint/plate no 110, block of 6 stamps	£2.40
334	9d Brown-sepia, fine paper (M12a). Imprint/plate no 97, block of 6 stamps. Cat. £4.80	£3.50
335	9d Brown-sepia, coarse paper (M12b). Imprint/plate no 97, block of 6 stamps	£4.80
336(a)	1/- Upright wmk, centre die 1 (M13a). Two plate blocks of 4, one with and one without the R15/2 flaw	£7.50
(b)	As above. Plate block with the R15/2 flaw. Cat. £2.40	£1.50
337	1/- Sideways wmk (M13b). Plate block of 4 stamps. Cat. £2.40	£1.50
338	1/- Upright wmk, centre die 2 (M13c). Complete set of two plate blocks (nos 3A—2, 4—2) of 4 stamps each	£4.50
339	1/3 Sideways wmk, frame die 1a (M14a). Both Catalogued plate blocks (2—1, 3A—1) of 4 stamps each	£4.50
340	1/3 Upright wmk (M14c). Plate block of 4 (no. 4—2), of this rather elusive stamp. Fine mint	£6.00
341	2/- Orange and Green. Plate blocks with both upright wmk (M15a) and sideways wmk (M15b). Set of two blocks (4 stamps each), some splitting perfs on one block	£3.60
342	3/- Red-brown and grey (M16a). Plate no 2—1 block of 4, finest mint	£9.00

BARGAIN COUNTER COIL SETS

343	K.G.VI 2d Orange. Complete set of 19 counter coil pairs (nos 1–19), with rubber stamped numbers, all on HM coarse paper (MC1e). Cat. £68+	£37.50
344	K.G.VI 6d Carmine. Complete set of 19 counter coil pairs (nos 1–19), with machine printed black coil numbers (MC2h). Cat. £45+	£25.00
345	K.G.VI 9d Brown-Sepia. Set of 19 coil pairs identical to the previous lot, but of the 9d value on coarse paper (MC2m). Cat. £110+	£55.00
346	Q.E. 2d Redrawn-design. Complete set of 19 counter coil pairs (nos 1–19), including starter and end papers, on original coarse paper (NC4a). Cat. £20..	£12.50
347	1960 Pictorial 2d. Complete set of 23 counter coil pairs (nos 1–23), including starter/end papers, with red printed coil numbers (OC3b). Cat. £45+	£25.00
348	1960 Pictorial 3d. Yet another complete set of 23 coil pairs (nos 1–23), this time of the 3d value on original paper (OC5a). Also included is a starter paper. Cat. £27.50+	£15.00
349	1960 Pictorial 4d. Set identical in content to lot 347 above, but of the 4d (OC6b). Cat. £30+	£16.50
350	1967 Pictorial 3c. Complete set of 19 counter coil pairs (ODC5). Cat. £11+	£7.50
351	1967 Pictorial 4c. Complete set of 19 coil pairs (nos 1–19) of the 4c value (ODC6). Cat. £8+	£5.00
352	1967 Pictorial 6c (ODC8). Set of 19 coil pairs. Cat. £11+	£7.50
353	1967 Pictorial 8c (ODC10). Complete set of 29 counter coil pairs (nos 1–29), Including starter and end (stamp detached) papers. Cat. £55+	£30.00
354	1967 Pictorial 15c Altered Colours (ODC12). 29 counter coil pairs (nos 1–29) plus starter/end papers. Complete. Cat. £75+	£40.00
355	1967 Pictorial 10c (ODC22). 19 counter coil pairs of the 10c change of design. Cat. £30+	£17.50
356	1970 Pictorial 20c, No wmk paper (PC15b). Complete set of 19 counter coil pairs (nos 1–19), including starter and end papers. Cat. £75+	£40.00

TWO MAGNIFICENT OFFSETS

357	1d Dominion. A corner block of 4 stamps, exceptional on three quite unrelated counts. One, it is from plate 13 (blocks from this plate are extremely elusive). Two, the shade is remarkable – a deep rich purplish carmine, akin to the scarce booklet 'ruby'. Three, all four stamps show a brilliant complete and strong offset on the reverse. To cap it all, condition is superfine. An exhibition block	£75.00
358	2d Whare. Marginal block of 4 on coarse paper, again all four stamps with complete and absolutely dazzling offset on back (L4fW). Part of one sheet only was found with this variety. The block, perfect mint	£85.00