

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N. Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

by Colin Hamilton

Recent Provisionals. Several correspondents have written querying both the need for and the wisdom of issuing these surcharged stamps.

As far as the need for such emissions is concerned, I am indebted to the Editor of "The Kiwi", the magazine of The New Zealand Society of Great Britain, for permission to quote from a letter he received from the Principal of the Stamps Branch at P.O.HQ, Wellington, covering precisely this point. The letter states :

" The 1979 Budget, presented on 21st June, contained an announcement that an increase in postal charges would take effect from 1st August. The major effect of this change was to increase the inland surface rate from 10c to 14c, and the inland airmail rate from 12c to 17c.

An order for additional 14c stamps was placed as soon as the new rates were known but there is no 17c stamp in the current definitive set. Considerable stocks of make-up values (e.g. 6c, 7c, 8c and 9c) were on hand, but from the unusually heavy demands made following implementation of the new rates it soon became evident that if continuity of supply of critical values was to be maintained, additional quantities of 14c, 17c and 4c stamps would be required more quickly than they could be obtained from our overseas suppliers.

Accordingly arrangements were made for the New Zealand Government Printer to produce the stamps required by overprinting existing stocks of stamps of values which had become surplus to requirements"

The implication of all of this, need I add, is that the hand which raises postage rates simply does not give the hand which orders stamp requirements sufficient notice of its intentions. But in fairness to the NZ authorities, that problem is by no means unique to them — the fun and games involving the destruction of the entire original printing of the G.B "Rowland Hill" miniature sheets, and the reprinting with new denominations (with the consequent postponement by several months of their issue) is just one obvious example of exactly the same problem. And N.Z. has to cope with the added delay brought about by having to transport supplies half-way round the world after they are printed.

Given that circumstances require some kind of emergency measures, then, the expedient of provisionals is perfectly legitimate and respectable. But the selection of stamps to be surcharged should be carefully considered, and here I think the wisdom of the N.Z. Post Office can fairly be questioned — indeed my colleague Warwick Paterson has already made this point (see note in October 1979 N.Z. Newsletter). Ideally, any such provisional stamp would have a face value less than that of the basic stamp chosen. It is appreciated that this may not always be practicable but surely it is courting trouble to virtually treble the face value of a common stamp (as in the 17c on 6c) especially when the surcharge itself would be relatively easy to counterfeit. In any case it seems odd that two of the stamps surcharged — the 6c and 8c — would together have made up the rate most in demand, and for which the third surcharge was provided !

1d King Edward VII Land Forgery. Volume 5 of the N.Z. Handbook mentions just one forged overprint, of which a solitary copy was known. No great detail is given, other than that the overprint appeared to have been applied by means of a rubber stamp.

I have recently seen another forgery, differing from the recorded one in that it had unquestionably been applied by a printing process of the letterpress type. In colour, general shape, and size, it was a fair imitation of the genuine, and the stamp — a used copy — was "correct" (a Royle plates 1d Universal). The cancellation, however, was wrong, being a commercial, roller-type, rather than the British Antarctic Expedition c.d.s., which is the only authentic cancel for this stamp. On closer examination, too, the letters of the overprint were crudely formed when compared with the genuine; in particular, the ends of the individual strokes were rounded and ill-defined, not clean and square-cut as they should be. But in addition to these relatively minor imperfections, the forger had, as so often happens, made an enormous, and obvious blunder, in this case by applying the overprint **upside down** ! Since no genuine inverted overprint variety exists, this one should fool nobody.

MISCELLANY

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| 101 | Chalon Head 3d, Perf. 12½. Beautiful block of 4 in lilac (SG117), unused. Light horizontal crease on lower pair of stamps does not affect magnificent appearance. A rare block | £200.00 |
| 102(a) | First Sideface 1d lilac. Superb mint block of 4 of the original issue, perf. 12½ (C1a). Fresh colour, light hinge, wonderfully centred | £80.00 |
| (b) | As above. Another magnificent mint block of 4, this one of the final issue perf. 12x11½ (C1e) in pale mauve-lilac. The block has inter-pane gutter attached at left. A showpiece | £57.50 |
| (c) | As above. Similar block, same issue, same pale shade, but without gutter, and slight gum creasing | £47.50 |
| 103 | First Sideface 2d. Brilliant mint block of 12 (4x3) from the final issue (C2f), with full sheet selvage at right, lovely from both front and back — single light hinge at top centre. Sideface blocks of this size and quality are of considerable rarity (this one incidentally shows two perf. pins missing from the comb head). International exhibition material ! | £185.00 |
| 104 | First Sideface 5/-. Very fine used example of this extremely difficult and scarce stamp. If we're to be hypercritical, centring is slightly high, and there is one shortish perf., but overall condition is exceptional. SG 1980 cat. £300, our price | £200.00 |

- 105(a) Second Sideface Adson.** A marvellous used block of 4 (1893 date) of the 1d perf. 10 with adverts in green. Single copies of the 1d with green ads. are scarce enough — multiples are almost unheard of. For the record, the block comprises Rows 5 & 6, Nos. 2 and 3 from the bottom left pane (See Perm. Page D7 of our Catalogue) £65.00
- (b) As above.** Single mint (hinged) copy of the 8d perf. 10 (D9c) — which invariably had Adson (in this case for Kaitangata Coal). Well-centred and fresh £45.00
- (c) As above.** 1/- perf. 10 (D10e). Fine mint example with Truebridge, Miller & Reich advert, on back £45.00
- 106 First Pictorials, 1898—1907.** A long simplified set of 22 fine used, covering all values ½d — 5/-, with changes of design, colour and size, but ignoring differences of perf., watermark and paper. The set consists of ½d, 1d(2), 1½d, 2d(2), 2½d(2), 3d(2), 4d(2), 5d, 6d(3), 8d, 9d, 1/- (2), 2/-, 5/-. The complete set of 22, we repeat condition fine (all c.d.s. cancels) Minimum 1979 Cat. (already far out of date) is £230. A real bargain for someone at £185.00
- 107 5/- Mt. Cook, Perf. 11, No Wmk. (E21b).** Lovely copy, deep colour, neat central Wellington c.d.s. £135.00
- 108 5/- Mt Cook, Perf. 14, Wmk. Sideways. (E21e).** Superfine used example, bright, fresh, with clear sharp Hamilton c.d.s. One right out of the top drawer £150.00
- 109 3d Huia, Reduced Design.** Complete set of three, fine used — one in each different perf. (E10a/b/c). An excellent set in its own right, and very useful as a "perf. reference set" for all the reduced design issues £18.00
- 110(a) ½d Mt Cook.** Top marginal block of 4 on Pirie paper, perf. 11 (F1a) in pale yellow green. Superb unmounted £15.00
- (b) As above.** Pirie paper, perf. 14x11 (F1c). Mint block of 4, centred low, and upper stamps hinged £24.00
- (c) As above.** Another block of F1c, this one superbly centred, and very lightly hinged £35.00
- (d) As above.** Basted Mills paper, perf. 11x14 (F2d). Choice of two mint blocks of 4, one with watermark "normal", the other with watermark "reversed". Each block £27.00
- (Save your money hint! We have seen variations of watermark on Basted Mills paper — both in ½d Mt. Cooks and 1d Universals — offered elsewhere at high premiums. In fact this paper appears to have been used in haphazard fashion by the printer, albeit invariably with the mesh vertical in relation to the design. As a result, the watermark is almost equally commonly found in all four "upright" forms, that is, normal, reversed, inverted and inverted-and-reversed).
- (e) As above.** Finest mint copy on Cowan wmk'd. paper, perf. 14, with wmk. inverted-and-reversed (F4bW). In contrast to the Basted Mills case, this is a true variety, and quite elusive £21.00
- (f) As above.** Unhinged mint block of 4 from the new plates, perf. 14x12½—13¼ (F5b), in dull green. Scarce £27.50

111(a)	1d Universal. Magnificent mint pair from the Reserve Plate, perf. 14 (G6a), showing the rich colour and full shading typical of the earlier printings from this plate. Any specialist will agree that "Reserves" are nowadays the most elusive of all the basic 1d Universals. The superb pair (light hinge one stamp only)	£35.00
(b)	As above. Wonderfully well centred block of 4 from the final Royle Plates issue with comb perf. 14x14½ (G10f). Fresh mint, excellent colour, and as fine a block of this stamp – notorious for wayward centring – as we have ever seen	£145.00
112(a)	1d Dominion. Finest mint pair on De La Rue chalky paper, one stamp being the variety "Q" flaw (J1aQ)	£6.00
(b)	As above. The scarce one on the other De La Rue paper (unsurfaced). Cat.\$15. Superfine mint, special price this month only (J3a)	£6.25
(c)	As above. Same scarce stamp, but in superb mint block of 4.	£27.50
(d)	As above. Superb mint copy from the 1925 "Art" paper issue with true BLACK 'watermark'(J5aW). Rare	£15.00
113(a)	K.G.V. Admirals. Exceptionally fine set of 2 on Jones paper. Very lightly hinged, wonderfully fresh colours, good centring and full perfs. The 'Jones' Admirals (K20a/21a) – the investment fraternity are latching on to these, so make sure of your set while you can	£95.00
(b)	As above. Superlative mint block of 4 of the Jones 3/-	£350.00
114	1d Kiwi. Superb mint unmounted booklet pane of 6 on multiple watermark paper (W5bZ)	£15.00
115	King George VI Officials. Simplified set of 14, ½d – 2/-, with all changes of colour, but disregarding differences of watermark or perf. An underrated set – a number of the values are surprisingly elusive. Fine mint	£40.00
116(a)	Queen on Horseback. 2/6d, fine mint	£26.00
(b)	As above. 3/-, fine mint	£7.85
(c)	As above. 5/-, fine mint	£9.45
(d)	As above. 10/-, fine mint	£26.00
(e)	As above. The set of 4, if ordered together, at the reduced price of	£60.00
117	2d on 1½d Provisional Error (N41a). Magnificent used block of 4. A gilt-edged item (used are much scarcer than mint)	£325.00
118	1906 Christchurch Exhibition 3d. Very fine used copy, light c.d.s. Possibly c.t.o., hence	£57.50
119(a)	1913 Auckland Exhibition. Superfine mint (lightly hinged) example of the ½d and 1d. An opportunity for someone who does not aspire to the now-expensive complete set	£37.50

(b)	As above. Another pair, of excellent appearance but somewhat lesser quality (the ½d is sound, the 1d has a small internal fault)	£15.00
(c)	As above. ½d only in brilliant unhinged mint marginal block of 4	£77.50
(d)	As above. Used ½d with forged overprint . An interesting 'extra' to add to a collection — or a reference copy which could repay its modest price many times over, since we have seen the same forgery on the 1d and 6d in the past, and the 3d probably exists too	£7.50
(e)	As above. Unused 1d from the rare slot-machine issue (S6aZ). Shows all the characteristics of a 'slot' — double gum, straight edges to perf. teeth at top and bottom, and gripper marks at side. 1979 Cat. \$125, but bad central thinning on back, hence	£15.00
120	1925 Dunedin Exhibition. The set of 3, superfine unmounted mint	£85.00
121	1937 Coronation. The set of 3, each in bottom marginal block of 4, with printer's imprint. Finest mint	£4.10
122	1940 Centennial. Complete mint set of 14 (incl. 10d surcharge), superb unmounted	£17.50
123	1940 Centennial Officials. Set of 11, finest used, and scarce	£30.00
124(a)	1957 Lamb Export. (S72a/73a). Set of 2, superfine mint unmounted. Cat.C.P. \$3.20, S.G. £2.75. Special offer at, the pair	£1.00
(b)	As above. Unhinged blocks of 4	£4.00
125(a)	1931 Healths. The red and blue Smiling Boys in magnificent pristine-fresh mint condition. Previous hingeing is both light and small in extent, the colours positively glow, and perfs are full and faultless. Super quality!	£225.00
(b)	As above. Another set, equally superb appearance, but the 1d has a minute gum thin, and the 2d a faint horizontal crease. See this pair on approval — you'll be pleasantly surprised!	£130.00
126	N.Z. Air Mails. The complete set of 9 N.Z. Air stamps, including the rare 3d perf. 14x15. Seldom offered, and although not quite meriting the description superfine, nevertheless most attractive, and (like the previous lot) another set which must be seen at the price	£110.00
127(a)	"VR" Life Insurance. An exquisite selected used set of 6 (½d - 1/-) in the original perf. 12x11½. Quality such as this is rare in these issues, and we make no apology at all for the price of	£245.00
(b)	As above. Finest used copy of the 3d brown (X4a)	£35.00
(c)	As above. Very fine used strip of 3 of the 1d sideways wmk., perf. 14x11 (X2j). Postmarked Hamilton and clearly dated 3rd November 1903, thus predating the C.P. and S.G. listings, both of which give the date of issue as 1904	£22.50

128	"No VR" Life Insurance. The blue 1d without VR is another scarce little stamp. We have just one or two examples in perf. 14 (X8a), superb used at, each	£15.00
129	Arms Types, 1956-8 Unsurfaced Paper. Only two values — 1/3d. and £1 — were issued on this distinctive paper, and we can offer these as follows:	
(a)	1/3d Yellow/Black. Finest mint single	£1.00
(b)	As above. Marginal block of 4, unmounted	£5.00
(c)	£1 Pink. Mint single, superb unmounted. Cat. C.P. \$40, S.G. £32, special offer at	£12.50
(d)	As above. Corner block of 4, again unmounted	£57.50
1946 PEACE		
130(a)	½d — 1/-. Fine mint set of 11 values (S39a — S49a)	£1.00
(b)	As above. Mint set, in blocks of 4. A little gum creasing on the 1/- block, otherwise fine	£4.00
(c)	As above. Set of 11 stamps on illustrated First Day Cover, dated 1 AP 46	£2.00
131(a)	½d Lake Matheson (S39a). Unmounted mint blocks of 4 on the listed fine and coarse papers. The two blocks	£1.50
(b)	As above. The same two papers, but mint singles	35p
(c)	As above. Small collection of 4 blocks (57 stamps), including an imprint block of 4, and plate varieties from frame plate 42725 at R7/8, 12/4 (Cat. no.SV39a); frame plate 42790 R1/1, R6/3; and centre plate 42724, R1/3, 1/4, 2/1. Description supplied	£10.00
132(a)	1½d St Pauls Cathedral (S41a). Two mint blocks of 4, one normal sideways wmk (W8a), the other is the inverted wmk variety (W8b). The two blocks	£1.00
(b)	As above. Bottom selvedge block of 6, with partial double perfs (S41aZ). Mint	£9.00
133(a)	3d Air Force (S43a). Lovely variety collection, on 6 album pages. Nine blocks (98 stamps) including 13 plate varieties/positional markings, all recorded in Vol. 2 of the N.Z. Handbook	£22.50
(b)	As above. The R2/4 and 3/2 tail retouches (SV43a and b), each in selvedge block of 4, mint	£5.00
(c)	As above. The R3/2 tail retouch in corner block of 6	£3.00
(d)	As above. Corner block of 6 with R3/2 retouch, marginal block of 4 with R2/4 retouch, both used . One or two tone spots, but a most unusual pair of blocks	£10.00
(e)	As above. Mint example of the Catalogued variety Blurred Centre (S43aZ). The immediately evident clue to this variety lies in the distinctive bright blue colour. Normal stamp included for comparison	£27.50

134(a)	4d Army (S44a). Three corner blocks (6 stamps each) including the three notable re-entries found on centre plate 42789, at R2/2, 2/7, 14/3. The three mint blocks	£10.00
(b)	As above. The two listed frame shades (orange and vermilion) each in mint block of 4	£1.00
(c)	As above. Mint single of the very rare watermark inverted variety (S44aX). This copy has a heavy horizontal crease, but considering only one sheet is known, and the Catalogue is £40+, it must be a bargain at	£4.50
135(a)	5d Navy (S45a). A superb lot of 12 multiples (95 stamps) including all 19 varieties listed in Vol. 2 of the Handbook	£40.00
(b)	As above. Mint block of 4 showing the Catalogued centre plate variety at R8/1 (SV45c). Lovely 'naked-eye' variety, this one	£4.00
(c)	As above. Unmounted mint copy of the Blurred Centre variety (S46aY) and with the distinctive emerald-green shading. Normal stamp for comparison included. Cat. \$100, a snip at	£35.00
136(a)	6d Industry (S46a). The two listed shades, each in mint block of 4	£1.50
(b)	As above. Fine collection of 7 blocks (38 stamps) including plate varieties R5/8, 6/1, 8/1, 11/8, 15/1 and two blocks showing frame types A, B and C. The collection	£20.00
137	8d St George (S47a). Mint corner strip of 5 including R8/11 and 8/15 varieties from frame plate 42752	£5.00
138(a)	9d Waiho Chapel Window (S48a). Two large blocks from frame plate 42878, showing varieties R2/5, 3/6 (SV48b), 4/8, 7/4, 7/5, 7/6, 7/7, 8/7 and 9/8 (SV48d). The two large blocks	£25.00
(b)	As above. Mint marginal block of 4 with the Catalogued R9/8 major re-entry	£12.00
(c)	As above. Used single, also showing the R9/8 major re-entry	£6.00

USED MULTIPLES

A further section from the collection we commenced listing last month. Again all are blocks of 4 unless otherwise stated. For this type of material, overall condition, and content, is remarkable.

1d Dominion

139	J5a Litho Wmk. Superb used block with blackish-green watermark	£25.00
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K.G.V Recess

140	K2a 2d Violet. Sound block, parcels used, but quite fair (postally used 2d's are scarce)	£12.50
141	K2d 2d Yellow. Similar in condition to the previous lot, but rather more clearly cancelled, and dated	£20.00

142	K3a 2½d Deep Blue. Another 'parcels' block, good	£2.50
143	K4b 3d Chocolate. Fine parcels used	£3.25
144	K5a 4d Yellow. Again parcels used — but as fine as anyone could expect short of c.t.o., (and who wants c.t.o. 4d yellows?). Rare thus	£35.00
145	K5d 4d Violet. Two brilliant shade blocks, one early (unworn), the other late (pronounced plate wear). Both with minor faults, but most attractive	£1.50
146	K5e 4d Violet. Dull violet block, perf. 14x14¼, good parcel cancel	75p
147	K6b 4½d Green. Block of quite superb colour — three stamps superfine the fourth with corner defect. Rare in used block	£22.50
148	K7a 5d Blue. Glorious block in the early blue shade, neat central c.d.s.	£2.75
149	K8a 6d Carmine. Block in bright shade, light octagonal parcel cancels	65p
150	K9a 7½d Red-Brown. Nice fresh block, indistinctly but lightly cancelled, and tiny perf. reinforcement. Very scarce	£27.50
151	K10b 8d Indigo-Blue. Very fine dated block (c.d.s. on each stamp). Again minor reinforcing of perfs. but no other faults. Rare	£40.00
152	K10d 8d Red-Brown. Neat square parcel cancel actually enhances this block! See it and you'll agree	£4.50
153	K11b 9d Sage-Green. Lovely block, central c.d.s. (1916)	£7.50
154	K12b 1/- Orange-Vermilion. Killer parcel cancel, and small facial defects, but must be worth	50p
155	K12b 1/- Salmon. Distinctive shade, large circular and somewhat heavyish (but not unattractive) parcel cancel. Minor thinning two stamps, but a nice block	£7.50
K.G.V. Recess Officials		
156	K04b 3d Chocolate. Deep shade, unworn plate, fine used block	£3.75
157	K05d 4d Dull Violet. Superb dated (1925) block from plate 20	£10.00
158	K08a 6d Carmine. Magnificent block of 6 (3 x 2) in deep carmine rose — as different from the normal carmine range as chalk from cheese. Dated Nov. 1928, a piece for the connoisseur	£150.00
159	K08b 6d Carmine. Block in a bright shade, condition superfine. (This is typical of the 6d carmines, and provides a brilliant contrast to the carmine-rose block offered above)	£2.50
160	K011a 9d Pale Sage Green. Faultless block, clean light Taumarunui c.d.s. of 18 NO 25 (two complete strikes, one part strike). If there's another used multiple even approaching this quality, we don't know of it. A fabulous block	£175.00
161	K012a 1/- Vermilion. Deep bright shade, clear c.d.s. (1920 date). Condition yet again marvellously fine	£60.00