

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

by Colin Hamilton

A few weeks ago, a visitor from Canada (a complete stranger to us, incidentally) called into our offices to purchase a copy of the C.P. Catalogue. During casual conversation, he mentioned that he had a used ½d Edward Official with the overprint inverted, and asked if we had ever seen or heard of such a thing.

Regular readers may recall that we have indeed. Some three years ago, we were shown a copy by Mr R.C.R. Henderson of Barnet, having previously heard of yet another example (which still remains unsubstantiated, incidentally).

Our Canadian caller said that he had discovered his copy lying quite anonymously in a mixed auction lot which he had acquired for something else it contained, and the circumstances of this find bear a striking similarity to those of the earlier copy, which was also discovered casually in a "junk" lot purchased from a missionary society.

One is naturally sceptical of such a major error coming to light so long after the currency of the issue concerned, and unless there is something obviously "wrong" about it, a single copy does not provide the basis for any firm conclusions. But **two** are a different matter, especially when they appear to have no common source or connection with each other, and when neither seems to have been previously recognised from a philatelic point of view.

Unfortunately, the Canadian copy was not available for direct inspection, but since then, both Mr Henderson and I have had the opportunity of comparing photographic enlargements of both stamps. The salient facts to emerge are these :

- (1) One stamp is postmarked Napier, Feb 1911, the other Port Ahuriri, Dec 1910. (Port Ahuriri is part of the city of Napier).
- (2) The overprints on both stamps have pronounced similarities, one being an extraneous line of colour between C and I, the other being that the bottom of the full-stop is notably lower than the feet of the letters.

One interpretation of all the facts available could be that in setting up the forme for overprinting, one of the stereotypes was inadvertently inverted; a small printing was made before the error was corrected; sheets from this printing were among those distributed to the Napier area; and the error was not subsequently noticed. While agreeing that all of this is a **possibility**, I think it has to be admitted that there is a strong element of wishful thinking involved.

Bearing in mind that (i) there is no evidence I know of that any individual stereotypes in the vertical OFFICIAL formes were replaced, or even that they were replaceable; (ii) I have not been able to find any normal ½d Official with the peculiarly low full-stop; (iii) it has not been possible to establish conclusively that the postmarks were applied **after** the overprint; and (iv) the other evidence mentioned above, I am left sitting on the fence, but with both feet very nearly touching the ground on the side marked "bogus". Until or unless, that is, some further materially favourable evidence turns up.

"ZEAPEX" MINIATURE SHEET. This is the most attractive production by the N.Z.P.O. for some long time! Its appeal will span a very much wider range of collectors than normal, and this, coupled with the apparent shortage of supply outlined by my colleague Warwick Paterson in the March N.Z. Newsletter, makes it imperative that clients, in their own interests, do not leave it as "something I can pick up later". My information (slightly later than my colleague's when he wrote his Newsletter note) is that dealers were offering to buy at \$3 each in New Zealand, and small wholesale lots were selling in auction at over \$4 a sheet. It does not require a crystal ball to foresee the day when this sheet will emulate the Capt. Cook miniature sheet (now standing at about £25). Already at the time of writing we have had enquiries here for large quantities — in fairness to all, we are adhering to a strict limit of no more than five sheets per customer.

K.G. VI 2d on 1½d 'RE-INSERTED 2' (C.P.M5aZ, S.G. 629a).

Never before do we recall acquiring a collection containing no less than four clearly different examples of this, the major variety of the George VI definitive issues. And we doubt that a similar situation will ever arise again, if only because we know of no other such collection in existence! Currently listed by S.G. at £300 and (be warned!) the C.P. Catalogue price is overdue for a considerable increase, so this is an opportunity not to be missed. All four examples are, of course, unconditionally guaranteed by us.

- 401** **Item 1.** A fabulous example, the most extreme misplacement to the right that we have ever seen — the inserted figure actually overlaps the 'D' with clear traces of the original damaged 2 appearing in the centre of the curve of the new figure. Offered in the ideal form — a positional piece proving the row 10/10 position, in this case an unmounted strip of 4 stamps, with complete printers imprint in the bottom selvedge. Some light staining towards the right side of the strip, but fortunately the variety stamp is virtually unaffected £225.00

THREE C.P. REFERENCE SETS

Perennial favourites, these, but they are offers we can only make when stocks permit (which is not nearly often enough!) Even now, quantities are limited — early ordering is essential.

- 402** **Item 2.** Another notable example, in which the hand-inserted figure is placed too high, and the remains of the original '2' are very clear. In mint positional block of 4, with part of printers imprint in selvedge. A couple of negligible gum tones — facial appearance immaculate £165.00
- 403** **Item 3.** In positional block identical to the previous lot. Vestiges of the damaged 2 are not quite so prominent in this example, but the re-inserted figure is slightly higher and markedly closer to the D than in normal stamps. The block superfine mint £185.00
- 404** **Item 4.** Another magnificently clear example — this time the re-inserted figure is much too far to the left, and again remnants of the original 2 are very prominent. Unmounted mint, brilliant appearance, two gum tones do not detract £150.00

CORRECTION

The heading **“THREE C.P. REFERENCE SETS”**, and the two lines of type below it, which appear above lot 402, should properly appear immediately before lot 405. Lots 402, 403 and 404 should follow immediately after lot 401.

Our apologies for this printing error.

- 405 1d Universal.** A reference set as simple as it is possible to make it, consisting of one example from each of the eleven series listed in our Catalogue, as follows:
- Without "Four o' clock" flaw: (1) London Print; (2) Local Print, Pirie Paper; (3) Basted Mills Paper; (4) Unwatermarked Cowan Paper; (5) Cowan Paper Wmk'd Single Lined NZ and Star; (6) Reserve Plate.
- With "Four o' clock" Flaw: (7) Booklet Plate; (8) Dot plates; (9) Waterlow Trial Plates; (10) Royle Plates
- and finally (11) Surface Printed.
- The reference set of 11 used stamps, identified by numbers pencilled on the backs to correspond with the above list £8.50
- 406 1d Dominion.** Companion set to the 1d Universal above, this is of similar content consisting of one reference copy from each of the eight groupings listed in the C.P. Catalogue, viz: (1) De La Rue Chalky Paper, Upright Wmk; (2) Jones Paper; (3) De La Rue Unsurfaced Paper; (4) De La Rue Chalky Paper, Sideways Wmk; (5) Art Paper, Wmk Lithographed on Back; (6) Cowan Paper, Normal Wmk; (7) Cowan Paper, Reversed Wmk; (8) Wiggins Teape Paper.
- The invaluable set of eight stamps, all used except items (3) and (4), which are mint, and all identified as listed £12.50
- 407 1d Field Marshal.** Set of six mint, as follows: K15a Cowan Paper, perf. 14 — one copy; K15b Cowan paper, perf. 14x15 — one copy; K15c Cowan paper reversed wmk — three copies, one from each of the main colour groups of rose-carmine, scarlet and claret; K15d Wiggins Teape paper, perf. 14 — one copy.
- The mint reference set, superb £22.50

MISCELLANY

- 408 1/- Second Sideface.** Hinged mint copy showing the striking "Bulbous Nose" variety (D10eX). Minor imperfections on the gummed side, do not detract from fresh appearance, excellent colour, and spectacular appeal ! £22.50
- 409(a) 1d Dominion.** Mint pair, with selvages at left, of the "Art" paper issue with black lithographed watermark (J5aW). The marginal copy is R3/1, showing the Feather Flaw. A rare variety pair, superfine mint £32.50
- (b) As above.** Unmounted mint copy of an even rarer variety — Watermark on both Front and Back (J5aY). The stamp shows a normal (i.e. wrong-reading) 'watermark' printed on the face, and another, also wrong-reading, on the gummed side. Cat. \$ 200 £75.00
- (c) As above.** The rather better-known "Watermark on Front" (J5aZ). Mint hinged copy £30.00
- 410 K.G.V. 8d Official.** Superbly fresh, well-centred, ever-so-lightly hinged mint example of a key stamp — and one which (we can tell you for free) is soon to rise yet again in price. Positively the last chance to fill an important gap at £100.00
- 411 2d Whare.** Lovely clear example of the plate 1B R2/3 "Teko-Teko" variety (LV4b) in mint corner block of 6 stamps. Minor perf. strengthening, but superbly fresh and attractive £20.00

412	K.G.VI Officials. The 1938 issues (½d, 1d and 1½d in original colours) are an elusive little set — the 1½d chocolate is a perennially difficult stamp. Quite exceptionally, we are in a position to offer the set of 3, superb used , at the special price of	£10.00
413	2½d Titoki. Commercially used copy with variety Watermark Inverted (i.e. W8a). This is one of several modern watermark varieties, often rare and invariably scarce, which avoided detection at the time of issue, and are not known to us in mint condition. The 2½d invert (04aV)	£18.00
414	8c Flag. Marginal block of 4 including the clear naked-eye retouch at foot of Z, which occurred at R12/1 on all sheets. Not Catalogued, but an attractive constant plate variety. The block, unmounted	£2.00
415	\$ 1 Glacier. Top marginal block of 4 with partial double perfs affecting the upper pair (OD17aY). Superfine unhinged (now Cat. \$ 70 as normal single stamps)	£35.00
416	1c Red Admiral Butterfly. Superb mint copy on unwatermarked paper (white gum) with variety Black Colour Offset on Back (P2cZ). And very nice, too !	£20.00
417(a)	4c on 2½c Provisional. Mint positional block of 12 (with London Letterpress surcharge) including the outstanding R5/1 variety Surcharge Bars Almost Completely Missing (P30bT). Never a plentiful variety, even when current, and now seldom available	£8.50
(b)	As above. Sheet value block of 10 (Local Letterpress Surcharge) with error Old Sheet Value Unaltered. Finest mint	£12.50
418	Dunedin Exhibition ½d. Used copy with perfect strike of the Exhibition c.d.s. dated 17 NO 25 — the first day of issue. Superb!	£9.50

419 1946 PEACE 6d — MAJOR VARIETY

Unmounted mint copy with variety Blurred Centre (S46aZ). At present listed in our Catalogue as known only in used condition. The blurring is very clear under a glass, but in fact no glass is necessary to spot the other characteristic of this variety — its vivid red-brown shade, as opposed to the normal chocolate (a copy of which is supplied for comparison). The rare "Peace" variety

£52.50

SPECIAL OFFER — 1968 ARMED SERVICES INVERTED WATERMARKS

420	4c Army (S109aZ). Unmounted mint single (Cat. \$ 7)	£2.25
421(a)	28c Navy (S111aZ). Unmounted mint single (Cat. \$ 6)	£2.00
(b)	As above. Superb used copy	£2.00
422	Plate Blocks. Both values in imprint/plate blocks of 6 stamps each. Scarce thus — one set only	£25.00
423	Sheet Value Blocks. Again both values in top right corner blocks of 4 with sheet value markings, and again one set only available at	£16.25

- Variety Gold Colour Doubled (S167aZ). This is one of the best of all the modern double prints, both impressions being of virtually equal strength. Surely the only example of an Olympic Symbol with ten rings! Superb unmounted £30.00
- 425 4c Steam Locomotive.** Imprint/plate block of 8 stamps with variety Black Colour Doubled (S170aZ). The doubling is remarkably clear at the left of the block, decreasing towards the right because the two impressions gradually coincide. See it on approval £42.50
- 426 1977 Silver Jubilee Miniature Sheet.** An extra-special wholesale offer available to Bulletin subscribers only, while surplus stocks last. Currently advertised for sale to the general public at £1 each, we will supply five unmounted sheets, post paid, for just £2.50
- N.B. The above offer is limited to two lots (10 miniature sheets) per subscriber
- 427 1975 Christmas 3c.** Ever seen an Old Master badly out of focus? Here it is — mis-registration of colours gives a pronounced blurred print effect. Mint 75p
- 428 1933 Pathway to Health.** Unmounted mint copy, superb appearance, but just a hint of the odd gum tone spot, hence £6.50
- 429 1946 Health.** Set of two, each with variety Blurred Centre (T18aW, T18bZ). Fine mint lightly hinged £10.00
- 430(a) 1963 Health 3d + 1d.** The famous and very prominent Finger Flaw (R3/5, Pl. 1B) in the much scarcer original state (T35bZ), in pair with normal. Finest mint £15.00
- (b) As above.** The later, and commoner, state with the flaw partly removed (T35bY). Again in pair with normal, mint £5.50
- 431 1964 Health 2½d + 1d.** Spectacular set of 3 mint with different misplacements of the red, giving (i) "Double Legs"; (ii) "Elongated legs and Double Beak", and (iii) an indescribable effect resulting from a massive 4mm shift to the right — this last has to be seen to be believed. Normal stamp included to make up a delightful and distinctive page £15.00
- 432 1934 7d Trans-Tasman.** The blue air stamp in brilliantly fresh lightly mounted condition, with no hint of the toning that frequently affects this stamp. Much underrated in such fine condition £25.00
- 433 Pigeon Post.** Brilliant fresh unmounted example of the 1/- red "Marotiri Island" stamp (VP6). Rare in this exceptionally fine condition £45.00
- 434 1/3 Arms Type.** Marginal unmounted mint copy on unsurfaced paper with variety Watermark Inverted (C.P. Z30gZ, S.G. F217Ei) £5.00
- 435 \$4 — \$10 Arms Types.** Complete set of 4, all matching corner copies, and superb unmounted £24.00
- 436 Special Cancellations.** At Panpex, the philatelic exhibition held at Christchurch in March 1977, special pictorial cancellations were in use — a different one for each day the exhibition was open. We can offer the complete set of eight different cancellations, each on official post office card at, the set £1.75

The vast majority of 1d Universals overprinted "King Edward VII Land" were from the Royle Plates, but a very small number of Waterlow Trial Plate W1 stamps with the overprint have been recorded. Most of these (about a dozen or possibly one or two more) have been used; less than half this number have been found mint.

We have available a single copy of this exceedingly rare issue, superb unmounted mint. For the buyer who wishes to be satisfied in his own mind, identification is simple, for this example happens to be from the top row of a sheet, and is therefore "Type a", with the distinctive line through Zealandia's wrist; but in any case, the stamp carries our absolute guarantee.

The "Waterlow" 1d King Edward VII Land (C.P.RD1b, S.G. A1b), unmounted mint

£750.00

RECENT ISSUES

14c Maori Artifact. Imprint/plate block of 6 with new plate no. A211 (and the usual Courvoisier reprint marking) 85p

14c/10c Provisional. Imprint/plate blocks of 10 stamps each, with plate nos 3A2A2A2A2A, 3B2B2B2B2B and three reprint dots (previously issued with two dots), and new plates 4A2A2A2A2A, 4B2B2B2B2B (these also have three reprint dots). Four new blocks in all, each block £1.35

7/2/80 125th Anniv. of N.Z. First Stamp Issue. Delightful set of 3x14c stamps printed se tenant horizontally, ex-sheets of 100, and featuring reproductions of the 1d, 2d, and 1/- designs of 1855. Stamps are perf. 13½x13½.
Strip of 3 mint 35p

Imprint/plate block 1A1A1A1A1A or 1B1B1B1B1B (6 stamps each), each block 75p

"ZEAPEX" Miniature Sheet. Includes one set of the three stamps detailed above, but se-tenant vertically, and perf. 14 ½x14 £2.75
(N.B. As mentioned elsewhere in this Bulletin, no more than five miniature sheets can be supplied to any one client)

7/2/80 General Anniversaries. 17c Centenary of Rotorua, 25c International Orchid Conference, 30c World Ploughing Championships.
Set of 3 mint 57p
Imprint/plate blocks (6 stamps each). Set of 3 blocks (one each value) £3.60
Imprint/plate blocks, complete set of 4 blocks (includes 2x25c) £4.90

First Day Cover. Official illustrated F.D.C. carrying all six stamps issued on 7/2/80 Wanganui pmk £1.05

First Day Cover. "Zeapex" Miniature Sheet on cover with Wanganui pmk of 7/2/80. Scarce! £5.50

NZPO First Day Covers Pack 1979. Official folder containing seven F.D.C. (20c-50c Sea Shells of 29/11/78 to 1979 Christmas of 3/10/79 inclusive). Price, post paid £5.25