

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

N.Z. Trip. It's difficult to believe that six weeks could pass quite so quickly! Despite a couple of minor hiccups (a bout of flu and a tiresome journey home, taking 24 hours longer than scheduled) it was an experience not to be missed.

There was the marvellous hospitality and friendliness wherever we went, right from the moment we stepped into the Air New Zealand DC10 at Los Angeles (which incidentally must be one of the world's worst airports from the point of view of passengers who are merely passing through, since it provides no transit facilities or arrangements whatsoever).

There were the hectic but stimulating nine days of Zeapex. Physically small compared with London 80, the N.Z. International was no less impressive for that. Quite superb organisation, quality competitive entries, the incomparable exhibit of selected items from the Royal Collection, and certainly not least, the totally unexpected and unannounced appearance of the fabled British Guiana 1c magenta on open display in the main hall, all combined to make Zeapex 80 an event to remember for the large attendances throughout. This last exhibit was a notable 'scoop' for C.P.Ltd, who, through my colleague Warwick Paterson, were instrumental in arranging its appearance with the current owner. All who were privileged to see it should be grateful for the wonderfully generous gesture by the owner who, understandably wishes to remain anonymous. It is impossible in the space available here to go into any great detail on the N.Z. entries — some of the more important awards are mentioned in the accompanying N.Z. Newsletter. I would only add that it was pleasing to see an exhibit of the hitherto unfashionable Official overprints gaining the C.P. award for the best N.Z. philatelic entry, although it must have been an extremely close-run decision between this and a magnificent entry of Life Insurance Dept., another of the less-favoured groups. The C.P. award itself, by the way, was much admired, not only for the fetching silver tea service, but even more so for the exquisite hand carved kauri wood tray — a true work of art, and the result of 66 solid hours of work by the craftsman concerned, I believe.

Then there was the country itself. An incredible Kaleidoscope of beauty, from the tranquil but spectacular Bay of Islands in the north to the dramatic fiords and mountains of the south west. Two things immediately impressed the visitor from the U.K. — the warmth of the sunshine (even in very early spring) and the clarity of the atmosphere, particularly in the South Island, where visibility of eighty miles or more was not unusual. For me, it was particularly interesting to see "in the flesh" all the sights and places which had become so familiar from stamps and postmarks. One disappointment was having to miss Milford Sound. It was the annual avalanche season, and they have been heavier than

normal this year. I understand the only road will be closed for several more months yet. Another disappointment was not getting a glimpse of the wandering albatrosses (not for the want of trying, I may say!), on the Banks Peninsula, near Dunedin, the only mainland breeding site in the world where these majestic birds can be seen at close quarters. But these omissions were for more than compensated for by the host of marvellous experiences we did have. It's a long trip, but one that anyone would find thoroughly rewarding.

A direct spin-off from my visit was the purchase of probably the best, and certainly the most complete, collection of Queen Elizabeth definitives ever to come on the market. In sheer volume, not the biggest by any means, but it includes every recorded variety, major and minor, as well as a number of unrecorded and unique items. Bulletin subscribers are going to have rich pickings indeed over the next month or two — first example elsewhere in this issue.

British Philatelic Exhibition, 1980. We extend hearty congratulations to all of the following who gained awards for entries of N.Z., with an extra word of praise for Allan Berry, whose first attempt at a National competition this was.

Silver Medal: S.F. Cross-Rudkin (K.E.VII).

Silver-Bronze Medal: A.E.Harrad (K.G.V).

Bronze Medals: A.P. Berry (Govt Life Insurance Issues); S.F. Cross-Rudkin again (K.E.VII again!); J.D. Evans (Sidefaces/First Pictorials); D.S. Hague (Official Mail); A.H.Rose (four awards, all for single-value studies of the Second Pictorials); J.A.W.Smith (1960 Pictorials).

IMPORTANT NOTE

The attention of all readers is directed to the extensive listing of special issues on page 3 - 4 of the accompanying N.Z. Newsletter. Wherever stocks permit we shall fill any orders from Bulletin subscribers, during November only, at the same advantageous prices. To calculate the equivalent in sterling, simply add up the N.Z. prices for the items required, divide by 2, and deduct 20% from the result. But be quick, as supplies of a number of the listed stamps are strictly limited.

1899 FIRST TYPE POSTAGE DUES

Some scarce and seldom seen material here! Last chance at these prices.

1101(a)	½d 'Large N.Z.' (Y1a). Marginal block of 4 of a scarce and undervalued stamp. One small and insignificant stain spot, otherwise fine and fresh mint	£17.50
(b)	As above. Single mint copy of the same issue. Very fine	£6.00
(c)	As above. but finest used example	£12.00
1102(a)	8d (Y2a). Marginal mint copy, light hinge, superfine	£47.50
(b)	As above. Superlative block of 4 with inter-pane gutter at right. One stamp with light hinge, otherwise absolutely pristine. Two stamps in the block show the notable frame double strikes which occurred at R2/6 and 3/6 in the left hand pane. Exhibition material!	£225.00
1103	½d 'Small N.Z.'. Top marginal block of 9, the centre stamp being the No Stop after D variety (Y8aZ, S.G.D9a). Some perf-tones, but not too intrusive on facial appearance. The block	£15.00
1104	2d Large D' (Y10a). Another scarce one. Mint hinged copy, unusually well-centred	£22.50

1105	3d (Y11a). Very fine mint	£7.50
1106	1d 'Small D' (Y12a). Fine mint copy with excellent frame double strike at left	£5.00
1107(a)	4d (Y14a). Dated (1904) used block of 4 . Some parting perfs reinforced, but unusual multiple	£20.00
(b)	As above. Fine used single	£4.50

1970 10c ROYAL VISIT PLATE VARIETIES

These are all items of which we didn't have anything like sufficient quantities when they were current for distribution through our New Varieties Service, so check and see whether they're absent from your collection.

1108(a)	R1/2 and 1/3 Flaw State (PV12a). Corner block of 6 with the top frame lines defective. On wmk'd paper	£17.50
(b)	As above., Retouched State (PV12b). Similar block, but with the frame lines redrawn. Again wmk'd paper	£17.50
(c)	R6/5 Flaw State (PV12c). Block of 4, including the light blue flaw on the foot of 'n' of 'land'. On wmk'd paper	£9.00
(d)	As above, Retouched State (PV12d). Wmk'd paper	£3.00
(e)	As above. Similar block with retouch, but on unwmk'd paper with white gum	£3.00
(f)	SPECIAL OFFER. The set of 5 variety blocks as listed above, all superb unmounted, inclusive price	£42.50

1975 - 80 PICTORIALS

1109	A superb and already unrepeatable collection of 85 plate/imprint blocks, complete 1c - £2 as issued to date, including all original printings, identifiable reprints, and all provisional issues. Blocks are of 15, 10 or 6 stamps each — in all cases large enough to show the presence or absence of reprint markings — and are unmounted mint throughout. Individual current retail must be well in excess of £200, so this is an opportunity not to be missed at	£145.00
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QUEEN ELIZABETH II SPECIALISED

A first offering from the magnificent collection referred to in this month's Bulletin notes — it can safely be said, the most comprehensive listing we (or anyone else) have ever assembled.

Original issues with small figures of value.

1110(a)	½d Grey (N1a). Five attractive shades, all in fine mint blocks of 4	£3.00
(b)	As above. Plate 2 R8/4 retouch (NV1a) — the only recorded plate variety on this value — in positional (corner) block of 12, unmounted	£7.50

1111(a) 1d Orange (N2a). Four mint blocks (two from large sheets, two from booklets, one of the latter having the wmk inverted), showing both a fine range of shades and the marked variations which occurred in the Royal Cypher paper, from very thin to medium thick £2.50

(b) As above. Plate 5 R4/6 retouch (NV2a), in an unmounted corner block of 24. A fine positional variety piece £6.25

1112(a) 1½d Lake-Brown (N3a). Superb set of no less than nine shade blocks, also showing clear variations in the thickness of the paper. The shades include a marginal block in a pale red-brown, quite new to us. The nine mint blocks of 4 £10.00

(b) As above. Marginal block of 6 including Plate 14 R1/20 retouch (NV3a). In the same pale red-brown as mentioned above £7.50

(c) As above. Commercially used copy with variety **Watermark Inverted** (N3aZ, S.G. 725Ei). This, like several other Q.E. inverts (all represented in this collection, incidentally) is one of the true rarities among modern stamps. Although at least 240 of each of these must have been issued, only one or two used copies (and no mint) of each are known to have survived. The rare inverted watermark, tiny corner perf. crease. otherwise fine £200.00

1113(a) 2d Myrtle-Green (N4a). Seven mint blocks of 4, ranging in shade from very deep to pale, and in paper from very thin to medium thick. A fine set of blocks £5.00

(b) As above. Plate 16 R4/2 retouch (NV4a(a)) in mint marginal block of 4 £7.50

(c) As above. Top marginal block of 6 from plate 15, including the retouching to both R3/12 and 3/13 (NV4a(b)) £6.25

(d) As above. Set of three plate blocks (pl. no. 17), showing progressive states of the major plate crack which occurred below and to the right of the plate number. One block has slight staining from old Trupel hingeing, the others are fine. The set £40.00

(e) As above. Another plate block with the unique and spectacular variety Plate No. 18 Doubled (N4aY). Both impressions of the '18' are of equal intensity, and this adds to the mystery of the variety, since there is no signs of doubling anywhere else in the block. The only example recorded, fine mint £175.00

(f) As above. Fine commercially used copy with variety **Watermark Inverted** (N4aZ, S.G. 726Ei). Of the greatest rarity £250.00

1114(a) 3d Vermilion (N5a). Brilliant set of nine blocks of 4 (incl. one block of die 1b stamps, and blocks from booklets with wmk upright and inverted). The series shows a full range of papers and shades £12.00

(b) As above. Plate 22 R5/11 retouch (NV5a(a)), in marginal mint block of 15, which also includes R4/12 constant flaws on forehead and hair at left £6.25

(c) As above. Plate 23 R8/3 retouch (NV5a(b)), in marginal block of 6, mint £7.50

(d)	As above. Plate 24 R6/6 retouch (NV5a(c)), in mint block of 4 which also includes R5/5 retouch to leaves at top left	£10.00
(e)	As above. Plate 24 R6/19 retouch (NV5a(d)) in mint block of 4	£7.50
(f)	As above. Plate 26 R4/2 — two matching marginal mint blocks, both first and second states of this retouch (NV5a (e) (1) and (2))	£20.00
(g)	As above. Plate 27 R10/7 retouch (NV5a (f)), in marginal block of 4, mint	£7.50
(h)	As above. Plate 30 R4/8 retouch (NV5a(g)) in mint block of 4	£10.00
(i)	As above. Plate 21 R4/14 retouch (NV5a(h)), in fine used single	£5.00
(j)	As above. Plate 21, R6/8 retouch (NV5a (j)), in mint block of 4	£6.25
(k)	As above. Plate 23 R5/14 and 5/15 retouches (NV5a (k)), in mint block of 4	£9.00
(l)	As above. Plate 25 R2/4 retouch (NV5a (m)), in marginal block of 4, mint ...	£6.25
(m)	As above. Plate 25 R6/14 retouch (NV5a (n)), in mint block of 4	£17.50
(n)	As above. Plate 26 R1/14 retouch (NV5a (p)), in marginal block of 4, mint ...	£6.25
(o)	As above. Another rare variety, first time seen by us at Woking — commercially used copy in a distinctive scarlet, and with pronounced blurring of the print — all strongly suggesting a double print, one albino. The blurred print variety (N5aX)	£100.00
(p)	As above. 3d inverted watermarks emanating from booklets are quite common. But similar varieties from 240-up sheets are extremely scarce (in this connection, it should be noted that the present C.P.Catalogue listing as a block of 8 is a printing error. We can't recall ever having seen a block larger than six stamps, and provided they are provably not ex-booklets, even individual copies would be cheap at the listed price!) We can now offer an unprecedented choice, as follows, all with inverted watermark, remember, and all finest mint:	
	(i) Vertical strip of 3	£60.00
	(ii) Vertical pair, with top selvage	£42.50
	(iii) Corner single, with selvage at top and right	£27.50
	(iv) Single copy, with selvage at right	£22.50
1115	4d Ultramarine (N6a). The finest range of shades we have seen in this value, shown in four blocks ranging from dark to pale bright ultramarine. A gorgeous quartet of mint blocks	£4.00
1116(a)	6d Purple (N7a). Set of five shade blocks, even more impressive (if that's possible) than the 4d's above	£8.50
(b)	As above. Two mint blocks of 4, including the plate 6 R4/19 variety in both the flaw and retouched states. Superb material !	£32.50
1117(a)	8d Rose-Carmine (N8a). Set of 4 mint shade blocks, again showing markedly different thicknesses of paper. The four blocks (no pale pink!)	£9.50

(b)	As above. But here it is! A magnificent block of 4 in the delicate and distinctive pale pink (N8a3). For a long time after it was first discovered, this shade was believed to exist only in a few counter rolls (from the strip between section numbers 16 and 17). But several years ago, a block of 6 was discovered and the item now offered is the only other block known to us. Finest mint ...	£200.00
(c)	As above. Single mint copy in the same pale pink, this one being from the 'normal' source, a counter roll	£40.00
(d)	As above. To complete the unprecedented bonanza of pale pinks, there is the choice of two coil pairs (coil no. 16 or 17), one stamp in each pair being the scarce shade (NC3eZ). Either pair, unmounted	£47.50
(e)	As above. Sound commercially used example of yet another of the "unknown mint" inverted watermark varieties (N8aZ). As in the other cases, extremely rare, and the only copy we have seen	£250.00
(f)	As above. Plate 20 R6/16 first and second retouches (NV8a (a) (1) and (2)), each in finest mint block of 4. Very scarce now in either state, far more so as a pair	£30.00
(g)	As above. The other recorded 8d plate 20 variety, R9/4, again in the original flaw state (block of 6) and later retouch (corner block of 8) — flaw-and-retouch varieties are of course invariably of considerable philatelic importance and interest. The two mint blocks (NV8a(b) (1) and (2))	£30.00
1118	½d - 8d Imprint/plate blocks. Set of 33 blocks of 6 stamps each, showing the plate numbers 1 to 33, complete as Catalogued	£67.50

(More magnificent Q.E's next month)

POT — POURRI

1119(a)	½d Second Sideface. Magnificent block of 4, perf. 11 (D1e), unmounted mint	£10.00
(b)	As above. Superfine block of 4 (two stamps lightly hinged) of the other perf. 11 issue, on thick 'Waterlow' paper with wmk sideways, one stamp being the outstanding R7/5 "HAIF" variety. Rare	£137.50
1120	1d Universal. Superb copy of the very scarce Royle Plates Perf. 11 issue (G10b). This is now rated by S.G. at £225 for hinged mint. Our offer is of unmounted mint at	£130.00
1121	King Edward VII 3d. Mint block of 4, perf. 14x14½ (H3a), well-centred and superb unhinged mint	£75.00
1122(a)	King George V Recess. Lovely and most unusual set of 16 (1½d, 2d violet, 2d yellow, 2½d, 3d, 4d yellow, 4d violet, 4½d, 5d, 6d, 7½d, 8d indigo-blue, 8d red-brown, 9d, 1/- vermilion, 1/- salmon), unusual in that all are top marginal copies. Stamps are all superb unmounted, any light hingeing being confined to the top of the wide selvages. A glorious array of brilliant colours	£150.00
(b)	As above. Plate block of the 6d (pl. 37), perf. 14x13¼, with complete corner selvedge. Magnificent appearance, and Cat. \$150, but a little dulling of the normally very glossy gum (due to light adhesions) allows	£42.50

(c)	As above. Sound used copy of the 6d (reasonable parcel cancel) with variety Watermark Inverted (K8aY). Very scarce, Cat. \$80	£27.50
1123(a)	K.G.V. Recess Official. Plate block of 4 of the 4d plate 20 (KO5d). Just a trace of a hinge at the top of the full corner selvage — stamps unmounted	£85.00
(b)	As above. Set of two astounding shades of the 1/- perf. 14x13¼ (KO12a). One is a full vermilion, the other is the recent addition to our Catalogue listing, a pale bright orange vermilion — the contrast has to be seen to be appreciated. The two mint	£40.00
1124(a)	Second Pictorial 1d Kiwi. Booklet pane of 6, complete with binding selvage, from the multiple wmk issue (W5bZ). Superfine mint	£15.00
(b)	As above. Vertical pair (with selvage) from the third pane in the second vertical block, and from the final state of the plate. The lower stamp (R6/4 in the sheet prior to guillotining) is one of the scarce Die 1 re-entries (W5bX), with complete doubling of the top frame. Some light gum tones, but appearance fine, and a chance to obtain an expensive stamp, C.P. L2d (5), cheaply at	£12.50
1125	1960 Pictorial 3d Sideways Wmk Coil Stamp (O5b). Mint strip of 3, the centre stamp showing the attractive "teardrop" variety which occurred on every 13th stamp in some rolls only	£2.50
1126	1960 Pictorial 1/9d. Marginal block of 4 of the original monochrome issue, one stamp showing the R6/16 retouch (OV15a). The variety block, perfect mint ...	£22.50
1127	Auckland Exhibition. The complete set of 4 values, neatly tied to registered piece by two complete strikes of the Exhibition c.d.s. clearly dated 1 DE 13 — the first day of both the issue of the stamps and the Exhibition itself. A fabulous item, the only first day example from this event we have ever seen ..	£750.00
1128(a)	Life Insurance Dept. 2d. The Key 'No VR' brown-red (X10a). Just the faintest hint of a corner crease — appearance totally unaffected — otherwise superfine used. Current C.P.Cat. \$200 (S.G. £120), offered for	£65.00
(b)	As above. Another copy, rather less fine (corner fault) but a very good space-filler	£20.00
1129	1d Blue Q.V. Postal Fiscal (Z1b, S.G. F2). In February 1882, these small-type duty stamps were specifically authorised for provisional postal use, to alleviate a shortage of the then current 1d postage stamps. Postally used copies with a contemporary date are scarce, and apparent postal usage must be viewed with caution. The delightful item offered here is however, unconditionally guaranteed — a small commercial cover bearing a pair of the stamps, beautifully tied by the New Plymouth duplex cancel dated 22 MR 82. Minor tear in cover (well clear of stamps), and some age-staining around the stamps themselves, but a superb proving cover, and must be of considerable rarity. We haven't seen another	£135.00

FIRST PICTORIAL MULTIPLES, MINT

1130(a)	½d London Print (E1a). Set of three blocks of 4 (two marginal) showing a fine range of shades. Condition brilliant	£27.50
(b)	As above. Another block in a deepish shade, one stamp being the Pl. 1, R3/11 re-entry. Fine	£10.50
1131	1d London Print (E2a). Two blocks (very fine), frames in beautifully contrasting shades of brown and chestnut	£15.00
1132	2d London Print (E5a). Excellent block (negligible perf-tone) in a bright shade. A very scarce block	£47.50
1133	2½d 'WAKITIPU' (E7a). Two superb shades (one notably deep), each in block of 4. Minor defects — crease on one block and slight gum tones on the other — do not detract from striking and attractive appearance. The two blocks (min. Cat. \$40 as singles)	£10.00
1134(a)	3d London Print (E9a). Superfine block of 4 (scarce in 'Londons') in deep yellow-brown. Lovely!	£47.50
(b)	As above. Another block, in yellow-brown. Unhinged and pristine fresh appearance, but crease affecting two stamps allows	£25.00
1135(a)	3d Perf. 11 No Wmk (E9b). Two blocks, in the listed shades of yellow-brown and deep yellow-brown. Former rather extensively hinged and the latter with two stamps creased, but again superb appearance (Cat. as singles \$96)	£30.00
(b)	As above. Block in deep yellow-brown, incl. the R10/2 re-entry. Nicely centred, and superfine	£32.50
1136	3d Perf. 11 Wmk'd (E9c). Blocks in yellow-brown and pale bistre (the latter a corner block). Marvellous contrasts, finest condition	£67.50
1137	3d Perf. 14 (E9d). Superfine block in pale yellow-bistre showing the worn plate characteristics typical of this late issue	£60.00
1138	3d Reduced Design, Perf. 14 (E10a) Lovely block in deep, deep brown	£62.50
1139	3d Reduced Design, Perf. 14x15 (E10c). Fine block in pale yellow-brown	£65.00
1140	8d London Print (E16a). Mint (hinged) block of 4, fresh and superbly centred. Extremely scarce in multiple	£67.50
1141	8d Perf. 11, No Wmk (E16b). Very fine mint pair, both stamps with minor but clear re-entries (R10/1, 10/2)	£20.00
1142(a)	8d Perf. 14 (E16d). Superfine block of 4 in deep blue	£37.50
(b)	As above. Marginal block of 4 in steel blue, including the good R10/9 re-entry (EV16b). One stamp (not the variety) has a microscopic gum-thin, condition otherwise superb	£35.00