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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

1d Smiling Boy. Originally it was intended to issue a Health stamp of this design in 1930. Among those who submitted tenders were Perkins, Bacon & Co. and The Royal Mint, London. The former were asked to prepare a die, which they did, but it subsequently transpired that they were unable to meet the deadline for delivery of the printing plate to New Zealand, and the plans were shelved. Because of shortage of time, emergency measures were called for if a Health issue for 1930 was to be produced at all, and this explains the re-use of the 1929 design, slightly adapted.

The 'Smiling Boy' was, of course, resurrected for the 1931 issue, but on this occasion the contract for the die and plate was given to The Royal Mint.

Proofs from the Perkins, Bacon '1930' die exist. We first saw one quite a number of years ago now, and because of its very considerable philatelic interest, we had some reproductions made at that time. Although the process used was offset photo-lithography, these reproductions were so superbly executed that they might have been mistaken for originals, so we took the precaution of having them all defaced by the addition of a white line diagonally across one corner (see illustration above). We still have a small quantity of these interesting items available, and they are offered elsewhere in this Bulletin. To make doubly certain that no one is under any misapprehension now or in the future as to what they are, we have inscribed "REPRODUCTION" indelibly on the back of each one.

1931 Airmail - Early Date. By an odd coincidence, following upon our note last month, we have since acquired a very similar cover, again bearing the full set of air mail stamps tied by Highfield c.d.s. of 9th November 1931. Although I have not yet been able to trace the reference, I believe I have read somewhere (possibly in a contemporary issue of "The New Zealand Stamp Collector") that a few stamps were used prior to the official issue date of 10th November — this Highfield usage was probably the one referred to.

1960 Pictorials - A New Discovery. The existence of 3d counter coil pairs on chalk-surfaced and chalky/ordinary papers combined has been known for many years (these are listed in our Catalogue as OC5aZ and Y respectively), and some nine years ago I wrote a lengthy note detailing all the available information on them, as well as conjecturing about their origins. Interested readers will find this article in the Jan. 1972 N.Z. Bulletin, or we can supply photocopies at 60p post paid.

That the 6d might exist in similar "mixed-papers" form has always been an intriguing possibility, and I am now able to report that the possibility has become a reality. I recently found a part-set of coil pairs

which included four in which one stamp was chalky, the other original paper, as follows: pair with coil no. 1 (upper stamp chalky), coil no. 15 (lower stamp chalky), coil no. 16 (upper stamp chalky), coil no. 20 (upper stamp chalky). All the pairs were from vertical row 1 in the sheet, but since the set was incomplete, it is unfortunately not possible to determine the exact make-up of this mixed-papers coil. Apart from the four pairs mentioned, all we can deduce is that the pair numbered 19 must have been either all-chalky, or mixed. At least eleven other rolls of identical make-up must have been produced, however — perhaps a set of numbered pairs from one of these is still intact somewhere. If so, it would provide the information needed to complete the story. In any case, all owners of 6d coil pairs should re-check them for mixed papers.

Theoretically the 4d, too, could conceivably exist in either “mixed” or “all-chalky” coil pairs. Either of these would be a very nice find indeed.

Q.E. SPECIALISED — CONTINUED

Redrawn Designs.

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| 101(a) | 1d Original Paper (N31a). Set of three shade blocks in deep orange, orange and a remarkably pale orange — the lightest we have seen. The three mint blocks of 4 ... | £2.50 |
| (b) | As above. One of the rarest and most prominent varieties of the entire Q.E. issue occurred on Plate 11, R10/22, in the form of an extensive weak area at the bottom of the design. The subsequent major retouch was itself the most easily seen in the series. Because of the extreme rarity of the first (defective) state (only about ten examples have been found) it is probable that the sheets on which they occurred were proof sheets issued with the bulk of the supply which was printed after the plate was retouched. Our offer is of two plate blocks (of 8 stamps each), showing R10/22 in both states (NV31a 1 and 2). Finest mint | £300.00 |
| (c) | As above. Plate block of 6, including the R10/22 retouch | £6.00 |
| 102 | 1½d Lake Brown (N32a). Mint blocks of 4 in both listed shades | £5.00 |
| 103 | 2d Original Paper (N33a). Again the two listed shades, each in mint block of 4. Good contrasts | £2.00 |
| 104 | 3d Thick White Paper (N34b). Horizontal strip of 3 (marginal) with a spectacular pre-printing paper crease. Nice item! | £7.50 |

Booklet Panes.

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|------------|---|--------|
| 105 | Complete Set of 12 different panes as listed under W7a — d in our Catalogue. All with full binding selvage, and finest mint. Cat. \$53, special offer at | £20.00 |
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Provisional Issues.

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| 106(a) | 2d on 1½d Large Figures (N40a). Complete set of eight plate blocks (four each with large and small surcharge dot). Although lowly priced, several of these are very elusive now. The set of plate blocks | £13.50 |
| (b) | As above. Bottom marginal block of 4, with variety Double Surcharge, One Albino (N40aX). In addition to an albino impression of the complete surcharge widely misplaced on each stamp, the block also shows two clear albino impressions of ‘2d’ in the selvage. Superb piece | £40.00 |

(c)	As above. Single stamp showing an excellent example of the same albino variety. Mint unmounted	£6.50
(d)	As above. Mint block of 9, the central stamp being officially patched in. Scarce	£7.50
(e)	As above. Vertical pair (bottom selvage), the lower stamp showing a superb off-set impression on the back. Not yet listed in C.P., but mentioned in the N.Z. Handbook, Volume 6. A delightful variety	£17.50
107(a)	2d on 1½d Small Figures (N41a). The rare plate block of 6 (pl. no. 13). Light selvage crease well clear of stamps, and two stamps lightly hinged, otherwise superb. Now Cat. \$ 1350 as singles (S.G. £660) so excellent buying at	£545.00
(b)	As above. Single copy, marginal unmounted	£110.00
(c)	As above. Superb used example (and we really do mean superb). Even scarcer than mint	£120.00
108(a)	2½d on 3d (N42). Complete set of 4 'normal' plate blocks (nos 17 and 18 with wide surcharge setting, now 19 and 20 with narrow setting). Mint	£7.00
(b)	As above. Plate block of 6 (pl. no. 17) with narrow surcharge setting. The "commonest" of the abnormal plate blocks, but even so a very scarce block. Brilliant unmounted mint	£32.50
(c)	As above. Another 'abnormal' plate block, and certainly one of the great and generally unrecognised rarities of any period in N.Z. philately — plate no. 19 with wide surcharge setting. Only one or two such blocks are known to exist. Superfine mint (one stamp lightly hinged)	£250.00
(d)	As above. Marginal block of 4 consisting of two wide-and-narrow setting horizontal pairs se-tenant (N42aY). Mint unmounted	£27.50
(e)	As above. Wide-and-narrow setting in horizontal pair	£12.50
(f)	As above. Similar variety, but in vertical pair (N42aZ)	£10.00
109	7d Arms Type (N43a). An attractive lot of this unconsidered little stop-gap stamp, which according to the N.Z. Handbook, Vol. 6 was on general sale for less than six months. Our offer includes a marginal block of 4, two corner blocks with sheet serial number of completely different types, and another corner block with sheet value marking. The four mint blocks	£5.25

Official Stamps.

110	Plate Blocks. Complete set of 17 blocks, 1d — 3/-, including all changes of paper and provisional values. All in mint corner blocks of 4 showing the plate number and printer's imprint. These Official plates have always been much scarcer than is generally realised. The set, finest mint	£175.00
111(a)	3d White Paper, Watermark Inverted (NO24bZ). Mint and fine	£5.00
(b)	As above. The same variety, but in plate block of 6. Rare thus	£45.00
112	4d Printed on the Gum (NO25aZ). Superb mint copy of this major error	£80.00

1893-94 ADVERTISEMENT STAMPS

Some further offers of these interesting and ever-popular issues.

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| 113 | Complete Set of 9 values (1d, 2d, 2½d, 3d, 4d, 5d, 6d, 8d, 1/-), all with advertisements on the back. No other N.Z. stamps ever appeared with any kind of under-print, so this set will mount up to form a unique page in any N.Z. collection. The set of 9 Adson, used (minimum Cat. \$ 95+) | £32.50 |
| 114 | The Three Settings. An attractive little used reference set — one advert each provably from the First, Second and Third Settings. In addition each set has been selected to include three different values | £7.50 |
| 115 | Adverts in Green. This colour of ad. exists on only three values (1d, 2d, 2½d), and is one of the scarcer variations, particularly on the 1d. Our set is complete. The three Green Adson, used | £15.00 |
| 116(a) | 1d Perf. 10. A fine representative lot of 10, all different advertisements. Each lot includes at least one pair. Used | £7.50 |
| (b) | As above. A giant lot of 96 all-different ads. (in fact one each of every differently-worded advertisement that exists). A marvellous basis for anyone wishing to set about the fascinating task of reconstructing a complete sheet. Three of the stamps are 2d's, the rest are 1d's | £92.50 |
| | | |
| 117 | 1d Smiling Boy. Reproduction of the 1930 essay die proof as described in this month's Notes. If you can't fine, or can't afford, an original, this is the next best thing (an original proof was recently knocked down in public auction at £320!). An inexpensive item of great interest | £1.25 |
| 118(a) | 5d King George V. The basic shades of the 5d (blue, ultramarine, steel-blue) seem to cause trouble to many collectors. We hesitate to call this offer a 'reference set' for fear of an avalanche of orders — we can only repeat it two or three times over — but that's what it is. Three mint stamps, all perf. 14x13¼, in the shades listed | £22.50 |
| (b) | As above. Beautiful mint block of 4 in ultramarine and showing the two perfs se-tenant (14x14¼ over 14x13¼). The two-perf block | £82.50 |
| 119(a) | 9d King George V. Another shade set par excellence — sage-green, pale sage-green, yellow-olive and deep yellow-olive, all perf. 14x13¼. The mint set of 4, complete as listed | £75.00 |
| (b) | As above. Quite exceptionally, we find our stock of the yellow-olive shade is good enough to advertise by itself. So, a single stamp (K11a3), unmounted mint | £25.00 |

4d PUARANGI ON CHALKY PAPER (C.P. 06b, S.G. 786a).

A keen purchase allows us to pass on the following exceptional offers. All stamps carry our unconditional guarantee that they are the genuine article, of course.

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| 120(a) | Single copy, finest commercially used (Cat. \$ 10) | £3.50 |
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| (b) Set of two shades. Something we haven't noted previously in this issue. The main background colour is deep bright blue in one of our set, and pale dull blue in the other. Lovely contrasts (supplies very limited) | £7.50 |
| (c) Fine commercially used single, of the R15/8 "Kiss" flaw (from plate 2333, of course). Scarce on this paper | £12.50 |
| (d) We have just one marginal copy, perfect unmounted mint. No reduced price on this, but still excellent buying at | £130.00 |

KING GEORGE VI

The first part of a comprehensive listing of these popular stamps. The following offers illustrate how it is perfectly possible to put together a specialised and interesting collection at relatively modest cost. However, it is in many cases first-come-first-served, as even this low priced material is elusive.

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| 121(a) ½d Green (M1a). Four lovely shades of green | £1.25 |
| (b) As above. Similar set of 4 shades, each in mint block of 4 | £5.00 |
| (c) As above. Imprint strip of 4, and seven single stamps each with side selvedge showing a plate number. Eleven mint stamps, also superb contrasts | £6.00 |
| (d) As above. Two used blocks of 4, c.d.s., and in differing shades. One block is dated 1 MR 38 (first day of issue), the other is a top right corner block, with full selvedge. Nice | £2.00 |
| (e) As above. Used bottom selvedge pair, showing complete printers imprint, with first day of issue postmark. Most unusual | £2.00 |
| (f) As above. Used shades, green, blue-green and yellow-green | 40p |
| 122(a) ½d Chestnut, HM Paper (M1b). Three striking shades | 25p |
| (b) As above. Two delicate shades, mint blocks of 4 | 75p |
| (c) As above. Mint block of 6 with plate no. 17 in left margin | 35p |
| (d) As above. Imprint strip of 4, and three different plate/marginal singles (one of which is the scarcer plate no. 18). Seven stamps, all mint unmounted | £2.50 |
| (e) As above. Horizontal pair from a slot machine roll, showing part butt join at right hand edge | £1.00 |
| (f) As above. Two used horizontal pairs from slot machines, one normal (dated 17/12/43), the other showing only 1½ stamps (caused by faulty stepping of the slot machine). Attractive used pairs | £4.50 |
| 123(a) ½d Chestnut, VM Fine Paper (M1c). Three contrasts, each in mint block of 4 ... | £1.25 |
| (b) As above. Corner blocks of 4, showing imprint/plate nos 100 and 101 | £1.00 |
| 124(a) ½d Chestnut, VM Coarse Paper (M1d). A super set, no less than eight shades. One lot only | £3.50 |

(b)	As above. Five shades, each in mint block of 4. Lovely	£4.50
(c)	As above. The three listed imprint/plate blocks (of 6 stamps each). One or two minor imperfections, but attractive and cheap at	£1.00
(d)	As above. Similar imprint/plate blocks of 4	75p
(e)	As above. Imprint/plate no. 111 block of 6, mint	40p
(f)	As above. Two large blocks of 30 (6x5), being the upper left corner of a sheet, and the bottom left corner of plate 111 (complete with imprint/plate no.)	£4.00
125(a)	1d Red (M2a). For the shade connoisseur here is a C.P. special. No less than seven different contrasts, bright scarlet through to rose-red	£3.00
(b)	As above. A very similar set of seven shades, but used	£1.00
(c)	As above. Blocks of 4 in scarlet and two shades of rose-red, all mint	£3.00
(d)	As above. Small collection of plate pieces, including eight singles with different plate numbers, imprint strip of 4 (without plate no.) and block of 4 from a booklet pane with plate no. 5 (wmk upright)	£14.00
(e)	As above. Two imprint blocks of 8, one without plate no., the other with plate no. 26, in striking shades. One very small stain spot, otherwise superb	£12.50
(f)	As above. Mint block of 4, include the major plate 8 R6/6 medallion flaw (MV2a(g))	£8.00
(g)	As above. Two mint singles, both inverted wmk from booklets (and both incidentally with binding selvedge attached) in glorious contrasts of scarlet and rose-red	£2.00
(h)	As above. Unmounted mint copy with inverted wmk (scarlet shade) — M2aZ ...	65p
(i)	As above. Two booklet panes of 6, wmk upright and wmk inverted (W6aZ and Y)	£15.00
(j)	As above. Booklet pane of 6 (wmk upright) with plate no. '5' marking in the binding selvedge (W6aX). Superb pane	£22.50
(k)	As above. Three used pieces, (i) top marginal block of 4, (ii) bottom marginal pair with printers imprint (without plate no.) — both with first day of issue cancels; (iii) horizontal pair from a slot machine (actually one stamp, ¾ of a stamp and a ¼ stamp — due to faulty stepping of the slot machine — with serrated edges at left and right). Incidentally the slot machine pair is the one illustrated on page 53 of Claude Scott's excellent little book on coil stamps. The three items are in magnificent shade contrasts. A most unusual selection ...	£10.00
126(a)	1d Green, HM Fine Paper (M2b). Despite its low Catalogue rating, this stamp is quite elusive. All the more remarkable, therefore, that we are able to offer a set of 3 mint in startling shades	£1.50
(b)	As above. Brilliant mint block of 27, with the plate 31 R3/17 retouch — MV2c(e). A variety easily seen with the naked eye. This must be a very scarce multiple	£17.50

(c)	As above. Used piece from slot machines, includes ½ stamp, a complete stamp, and ½ stamp — serrated edges at left and right. The two pin marks are clearly visible. (Claude Scott does not record this fine HM paper as being used in slot machines). A marvellous item	£12.50
127(a)	1d Green, VM Fine Paper (M1c). Six shades in this set, all mint	£1.00
(b)	As above. Five lovely shades, each in mint block of 4 (three of the blocks are unmounted mint)	£3.00
(c)	As above. Two unmounted mint blocks of 4, one a normal thick paper, the other a very thin 'transparent' paper — striking green contrasts are an added bonus	£4.00
(d)	As above. The same two papers, but unmounted mint singles	£1.00
(e)	As above. Imprint/plate no. 107, mint block of 6	65p
(f)	As above. Marginal unmounted mint single, variety inverted watermark (M2cZ). One of the scarce 'inverts'	£6.00
(g)	As above. Horizontal strip of 4 from a slot machine roll, with dated deep cherry centre paper attached	£2.00
(h)	As above. Two complete columns of a sheet (2 x 10) showing the 'defective wmk' variety (as mentioned in Vol. 2 of the Handbook) — paper appears to vary in thickness from thin (with distinctive wmk) at the top, to much thicker (much less distinct wmk) at the bottom. Small tone spot does not detract	£4.00
(i)	As above. Used piece from slot machine, ¾ stamp, a complete stamp, ¼ stamp—serrated edges at left and right. Lovely	£5.00
128(a)	1d Green, VM Coarse Paper (M2d). Set of shades, seven different	£1.00
(b)	As above. Similar set of seven shades, each in mint block of 4	£4.00
(c)	As above. Two mint copies, showing thick and thin papers	£1.00
(d)	As above. Twelve different imprint/plate blocks (nos 114 — 125 complete). One or two small imperfections, but the vast majority are very fine	£10.00
(e)	As above. Unmounted mint marginal block of 4, with parts of three separate strikes of the comb perforating head in the selvage. Unusual	£1.75

To be continued

RECENT ISSUES

1980 Health (issued 11/8/80). 2 x 14c+2c se-tenant, 17c+2c. Also in miniature sheet containing 4 x 14c+2c and 2 x 17c+2c.

Set of 3 mint or used	40p
Imprint/plate blocks, Set of 2 (of 8 and 6 stamps respectively), complete.....	£2.20
First Day Cover	50p
Miniature Sheet	£2.00

Health Camp Postmarks, set of 6 covers, each with full set of stamps, and cancelled at different Camps on the day of issue	£3.60
1980 Christmas (issued 1/10/80). 10c, 25c, 35c.	
Set of 3 mint	53p
Imprint/plate blocks complete (3 blocks of 6 stamps each)	£3.75
First Day Cover	63p
1980 New Definitives (issued 26/11/80). 15c, 25c, 35c, 45c, 60c.	
Set of 5 mint	£1.35
Imprint blocks. Set of 5 (eight stamps each block), complete	£11.50
First Day Cover	£1.60
1980 Collectors Pack. Special issues from 1979 Parl. Conf. to 1980 Xmas (23 stamps), attractively presented in a colourful folder. Post paid	£6.00
4c Rose Reprints. Pl. 1Ax4 or 1Bx4, in blocks of 15, with one reprint dot alongside R8/1. Each block	60p
5c Rose Reprints. Pl. 1Ax5 or 1Bx5, in blocks of 15, with 2 reprint dots alongside R8/1. Each block	75p
12c Artifact Reprint. Plate A111 (6 stamps) with one reprint stroke	£1.10
14c Artifact New Plate Plate A322 (with one reprint stroke)	80p
20c/7c Rose Provisional (photogravure surcharge by Harrison's).	
Single stamp, mint	16p
Imprint/plate block 2Ax5 or 2Bx5, in blocks of 15 with two reprint dots alongside R8/1 ("two-dot" reprints were not, as far as we know, issued unsurcharged). Each block	£2.50
(Note: For those who collect plate varieties, the 2B block includes constant varieties on R8/1 and 8/5).	
First Day Cover. Postmarked Palmerston North 29/9/80 (although there was no official first day of issue, this was certainly the earliest use at Palmerston North, and we have no knowledge of earlier usage anywhere in N.Z.). The cover	65p
20c SeaShell Reprint. Imprint block of 6 with one reprint asterisk alongside R10/1 (this is the first reprint from the Spanish printers)	£1.10
Booklets.	
\$1.40 Booklet (containing 10 x 14c Artifact), pane with selvedge at left or right, each	£1.15
\$1.54 Booklet (same contents as above, but different cover and price, for sale at non-post-office outlets). Left or right selvedge, each	£1.15
\$2.00 Booklet (containing 10 x 20c Shell), pane with selvedge at left or right, each	£1.60
\$2.20 Booklet (same contents as above, but different cover and price — see \$1.54 booklet details). Selvedge at left or right, each	£1.60
Stationery.	
20c Envelope, red on white, with "Sender" on front	24p
20c Letter Card, red on blue	24p