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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

THE 1892 "AUSTIN WALSH" POSTCARD

TO MESSRS.	ATLAS BONDED FACTORY.
AUSTIN WALSH & CO., Tobacco, Cigar, & Cigarette MANUFACTURERS, Importers of Finest Foreign Leaf Tobaccos,--- AUCKLAND, N.Z.	
RECORD OF MY VOTE IN FAVOUR OR OTHERWISE OF THE ATLAS CIGARETTE. N^o. 1. The Atlas Cigarette surpasses all imported. 2. The Atlas Cigarette equals the best imported. 3. The Atlas Cigarette is not equal to imported. I Vote for No. Name Postal Address I estimate that the number of votes you will receive in the month of..... will be N.B.—This must be posted before the 20th of the month in which the vote is to be recorded.	

This attractive little item of postal stationery is interesting in several respects. Firstly it was, and remains, far and away the smallest piece of imprinted stationery to be issued in N.Z. The reason for its small size was, of course, that it was (in unused form) enclosed in packets of "Atlas" cigarettes, in the same way as the many pictorial series of cigarette cards which will be more familiar to U.K. readers. However, as will be seen from the illustrations (which are slightly less than actual size, incidentally) the Austin Walsh card was not intended to be collected — quite the opposite, in fact, the idea being that the details on the back be completed, and the card returned to the cigarette manufacturers. The clear implication is that some kind of prize was awarded each month, but curiously there is no mention of this on the card.

Secondly, it was (apart from newspaper wrappers) the only piece of stationery to be imprinted with the ½d Newspaper stamp. Apparently the authorities were persuaded to "bend the rules" and make this a special case for half-price postage — the normal rate for postcards at the time was 1d.

Thirdly, it was the first use of postal matter for advertising purposes, pre-dating the Second Side-face "Adson" by almost a year.

Fourthly, it was the first item of private stationery.

Volume 1 of the N.Z. Handbook states that 80,000 cards were printed, but a subsequent discovery in the official post office records strongly indicates that the actual quantity printed was only 20,000 made up of two separate printings of 10,000 each in March and August 1892.

Sufficient material for study in depth is not available nowadays (if ever it was!), but I was fortunate recently to have on hand four cards at one time, and a comparative examination of these proved interesting.

Three of the cards — all unused — were printed in relatively pale bright rose on card of very similar smooth texture, and the inscriptions on both sides were uniformly full. The fourth card — a used example — showed several pronounced differences, however. The most immediately noticeable of these was the colour of the ink — a distinctive deep dull brown-rose. The card itself had a prominent blanket-like texture, crudely similar to the clear mesh seen on Cowan paper (e.g. K.G.V. Admirals and the first Arms Types). And the inscriptions had a worn appearance, with numerous flaws, particularly affecting the finer lines. Add to that the late date of the postmark — October 1895 — and it begins to seem quite possible that this used card was from the second printing. More importantly, the evidence provided by this small sample suggests the two printings may be readily identifiable, by reference to both the colour of the ink and the quality of the card.

O.E. SPECIALISED, CONTINUED

The Middle Value Plate Varieties. For two reasons, these provide one of the most interesting and satisfying fields that any philatelist could wish for. Firstly, it was the policy of De La Rue to carry out repairs to the plates when necessary (by means of both retouching and re-entering), rather than to discard them in favour of new ones. So in many instances the varieties exist in two or more different states. Secondly, although each value had its own frame plates, the same centre plates were used for all values. So the same plate varieties and their different states may be found in all or any of the 9d, 1/-, 1/6d and 1/9d, sometimes in combination with frame plate varieties which themselves may be in differing states.

All of this tends to complicate matters when trying to compile a comprehensive list of offers for advertising, but fortunately our Catalogue covers the majority of these varieties in the simplest and most concise way, and in the listing below we shall, as far as is possible, follow the sequence of the Catalogue and, for simplicity, make frequent reference to Catalogue numbers.

- 201(a) Centre Plate 1A, Vertical Columns 1 and 2 (NCV1a and b).** Set of two blocks of 16 (2x8, with all selvages) of the 9d value, in the original and re-entered states as listed (in the later state, 12 stamps show signs of re-entry, but one or two are very minor). The pre-re-entry block has the abnormal top-to-bottom perforating £17.50
- (b) **As above.** Similar pair of blocks, but of the 1/-. In addition to the centre plate varieties, these include frame plate 1A R7/2 in the pre-flaw and first retouch states respectively (NV10a(c) and (e)) £20.00
- (c) **As above.** Similar pair of blocks, but of the 1/6d £22.50

Note: The above items (a), (b) and (c) together represent the complete NCV1 series (since the 1/9d did not exist during the lifetime of centre plate 1). If sold as one lot, special reduced price of £52.50 applies.

202	Centre Plate 1B. After some printings had been made, a crack developed in this plate, and gradually increased in extent until, it is believed, it led to the discarding of the plate. The evidence of the flaw appeared in the selvedge below R8/1, and our set of six corner blocks of 4 (two of each value) show to perfection the progressive development, from pre-crack on one of the 1/6d blocks, to a prominent ragged line 8mm long on one of the 1/-'s	£27.50
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Centre Plate 1B, R8/5

203(a)	Pre-Flaw State (NCV2a). 1/- imprint block of 4, mint. Rare!	£27.50
(b)	As above. 1/6d imprint block of 4, mint. Another rare one	£37.50
204(a)	With First Flaw (NCV2b). 1/- imprint block of 4, mint. Even rarer!	£52.50
(b)	As above. 1/6d fine used example	£30.00
205(a)	With White Area, Minute Spots to Left (NCV2c). 9d imprint block of 4, mint, block also includes the good frame re-entries (constant) on R7/5 and 8/5, and R7/5 pre-frame flaw	£6.00
(b)	As above. 1/- imprint block of 4, mint	£6.00
(c)	As above. 1/6d imprint block of 4, mint	£6.00
206(a)	As Previous State, But Additional Spot to Right (NCV2d). 9d imprint block of 4, mint (other varieties remain as in lot 205a)	£7.50
(b)	As above. 1/6d imprint block of 4, mint	£7.50
207(a)	All Flaws Gone, Shading Recut (NCV2e). 9d imprint block of 4, mint (other varieties remain as in lot 205a)	£10.00
(b)	As above. 1/- imprint pair, mint. Extremely rare	£65.00
(c)	As above. 1/6d coil pair mint. Another rarity	£65.00
208(a)	New Flaw (NCV2f). 1/- imprint block of 4, mint	£5.00
(b)	As above. 1/6d imprint block of 4, mint	£5.00
209(a)	New Flaw Gone, Shading Again Recut (NCV2g). 9d imprint block of 4, mint (other varieties remain as in lot 205a)	£5.00
(b)	As above. 1/- imprint block of 4, mint	£5.00
(c)	As above. 1/6d imprint block of 4, mint	£5.00

Note: The above 17 items (lots 203a - 209c) form a complete and possibly unique set of all known states of NCV2 in all values. If ordered as a set, we will supply at the special price of £300 complete.

Centre Plate 2A R7/8.

210(a)	Pre-Flaw State (NCV3a). 9d plate block of 6, mint	£8.50
(b)	As above. 1/- plate block of 8, which also includes frame plate 1A R7/7 in the normal pre-flaw state (NV10a(g))	£10.50
(c)	As above. Similar block to (b), but R7/7 shows the very scarce first retouch (NV10a(i))	£27.50
(d)	As above. 1/6d plate block of 8. Also includes frame plate varieties R7/7 flaw and R8/8 normal	£12.50
(e)	As above. Similar block to (d), but R7/7 now in the next state, with a white area surrounding the flaw (R8/8 remains normal)	£12.50
(f)	As above. Similar block to (e), but R7/7 has progressed again, the flaw having disappeared, leaving the colourless area only (R8/8 still normal)	£12.50

(g)	As above. Similar block to (f) but R8/8 now shows the frame flaw	£12.50
(h)	As above. 1/9d plate block of 6 on original paper, mint	£15.00
211	Flaw State (NCV3b). Two matching 1/- plate blocks of 8, showing the R7/8 flaw in its original and developed states. Both blocks include the R7/7 frame variety, now with the second retouch (NV10a(j))	£25.00
212(a)	Retouch (NCV3d). 1/- plate block of 8, also includes R7/7 frame second retouch	£8.50
(b)	As above. 1/6d plate block of 8, also includes R7/7 and R8/8 frame varieties both now retouched	£10.00
(c)	As above. 1/9d plate block of 6, on thick white paper	£15.00

Centre Plate 2B, R6/3.

213	One Flaw Between Eyebrows (NCV4b). 1/9 used single, scarce	£9.00
214(a)	Two Flaws Between Eyebrows (NCV4c). 1/- corner block of 12 (R6/3 is scarce in truly positional blocks). Also includes frame plate varieties R5/2 second retouch (NV10a(o)), R7/1 pre-retouch and R8/2 second retouch (NV10a(s))	£12.50
(b)	As above. 1/6d marginal block of 8, which also includes the frame plate varieties R6/2 second retouch (NV11a(j)) and R6/3 pre-flaw	£9.50
(c)	As above. Block similar to (b), but R6/3 now shows the flaw state	£10.50
(d)	As above. 1/9d used single. Tiny defect (pinhole) but cheap at	£2.75
215(a)	Retouch (NCV4d). 1/- corner block of 12 matching lot 214(a) above, but in addition to the R6/3 centre plate retouch now present, R7/1 shows the frame plate retouch	£12.50
(b)	As above. 1/6d marginal block of 8, also including the frame varieties R6/2 second retouch and R6/3 flaw retouched	£11.50
(c)	As above. 1/9d block of 8 on thick white paper, which also includes the frame plate retouch to R5/3	£18.00

Centre Plate 2B, R6/10. (to avoid unnecessary repetition, all items offered in this series are in corner blocks of 6, with plate number 1B2B).

216(a)	Pre-Flaw State (NCV5a). 9d block	£4.50
(b)	As above. 1/- block	£7.50
(c)	As above. 1/9d block (original paper)	£17.50
217(a)	First Flaw (NCV5b). 1/9d block (original paper)	£20.00
(b)	As above. Another 1/9d block, with the flaw more developed	£20.00
218(a)	First Retouch (NCV5c). 1/6d block	£7.50
(b)	As above. 1/9d block (original paper)	£20.00
219(a)	Second Flaw (NCV5d). 1/- block	£5.00
(b)	As above. 1/6d block	£7.50
220(a)	Second Retouch (NCV5d). 1/- block	£6.00
(b)	As above. 1/6d block	£7.50
(c)	As above. 1/9d block (thick white paper)	£15.00

Note: The above 12 lots (216a - 220c) represent another superb complete set of all known states on all values, and if ordered together, will be supplied at £125 the set.

(to be concluded with further frame plate varieties next month)

One we don't think has been done before - simply because we've never had the raw material ! This **mint** set of six stamps covers all the main perfs, watermarks and papers, as follows: stamp (a) — perf. 12x11½ (D1a, S.G. 194); stamp (b) — perf. 10 (D1b, S.G. 217); stamp (c) — perf. 10x11 (D1c, S.G. 227); stamp (d) — perf. 11 wmk W4 (D1e, S.G. 236); stamp (e) — as (d) but on the 1898 coarse paper (D1eV, S.G. 236a); stamp (f) — perf. 11 thick Waterlow paper with double-lined wmk sideways (D1h, S.G. 292). The mint reference set, valuable (1979 C.P. Cat \$ 67, 1981 S.G. £45+), and informative too

£30.00

- 222(a) ½d Second Sideface.** A once-in-a-lifetime offer, being a horizontal pair, unhinged mint, with inter-pane gutter between the stamps (i.e. exactly the same format as present-day G.B. "gutter pairs") — and on the scarce 1898 coarse paper to boot ! ... £37.50
- (b) **As above.** A larger piece, consisting of a block of 4 on each side of the central gutter. Also on the coarse paper, and also unmounted mint. Exhibition item £97.50

1d UNIVERSAL

- 223(a) 'Official' Booklet Pane** of 6 stamps, with binding selvage at top. Lightly hinged in selvage only £35.00
- (b) **As above,** but binding selvage at foot. Superfine mint £37.50

1d DOMINION VARIETIES, MINT AND USED

- 224(a) De La Rue Chalky Paper.** R5/24 "Broken Globe" flaw, used (J1aP) £2.25
- (b) **As above.** R10/19 "Q" flaw, used (J1aQ) £2.25

- (c) **As above.** Marginal pair, imperf (J1aT, S.G. 450a). A great rarity — not to be confused with either the similar variety on Cowan Paper, or the proofs on un-surfaced paper, or the proofs on sideways wmk paper, all of which are much commoner (and not infrequently misidentified as the good one!). This pair is of course unconditionally guaranteed. Minor corner crease — invisible on face — otherwise very fine £125.00

- 225(a) Jones Paper.** "Broken Globe" flaw, used (J2aW) £2.25
- (b) **As above.** R3/1 "Feather" flaw, used (J2aV) £2.25
- (c) **As above.** Variety Watermark Inverted, good used (J2aY) £5.00
- (d) **As above.** Pair from booklet, with side selvages complete (W4cY). Finest mint £12.50
- 226(a) Art Paper, Litho Wmk.** "Broken Globe" flaw, mint (J5aP) £4.50
- (b) **As above.** Superb mint copy with **Black** 'wmk' (J5aW) £10.00
- (c) **As above.** Variety Colourless "Wmk", Horizontal Mesh (J5aS), mint £30.00
- (d) **As above.** Variety Colourless 'Wmk', Vertical Mesh (J5aR), mint £6.00

(e)	As above. Variety Watermark Printed on Front (J5aZ), mint	£30.00
227(a)	Cowan Paper. "Broken Globe" flaw, used (J6aW)	£2.00
(b)	As above. "Feather" flaw, used (J6aV)	£2.00
(c)	As above. Variety Watermark Inverted, used	£5.00
(d)	As above. Pair from booklet, with 'Dainties Embassy Chocolates' ads in side selvages (W4dL). Scarce! Good mint	£20.00
228	Cowan Paper, Reversed Wmk. Variety Watermark Inverted, used (J7aY)	£10.00
229	Wiggins Teape Paper. Variety Watermark Inverted, finest mint (J8aZ)	£10.00

½d NEWSPAPER WRAPPERS

230	1878 Issue. The really scarce one on unwatermarked paper (Samuel A1). Very fine unused	£32.50
231	1881 Issue. Unused example on watermarked paper, with four-line inscription enclosed in frame of straight lines with ornamental corners (Samuel A2). A little age-toning as usual, but attractive nonetheless	£8.50
232(a)	1892 Issue. As previous item, but inscription now in five lines, with wavy line border (Samuel A4). Very fine unused	£4.50
(b)	As above, but lovely used example, wrapper intact. Scarce thus	£7.50
(c)	As above. Superb used wrapper, privately printed DUNEDIN STOCK EXCHANGE/MONTHLY SHARE REPORT	£12.50
(d)	As above. Used "front" only (inscription panel and stamp are intact). Cheap at	60p

"AUSTIN WALSH" CARDS

233(a)	Unused Card. Nice example in very good condition	£57.50
(b)	As above. Brilliantly fresh card. Quite exceptional	£75.50
(c)	As above. Clean attractive example, but with a serious crease (fortunately not too noticeable on the front). Excellent spacefiller at	£7.00
234	Used Card. The possible second printing item described in this month's Notes. In any event, used are very much scarcer than mint (which are themselves hardly common!)	£67.50

KING GEORGE VI

Continuation of last month's popular specialised listing (embarrassingly popular, as many disappointed would-be purchasers will testify!).

- 235(a) 1d Green, Coarse VM paper (M2d). Green offset on back. We can offer a mint multiple (block of 4, or imprint/plate strip of 3) one stamp in each having a

	partial offset on the back in a bright green colour. Attractive and a bargain at, either piece	£3.00
(b)	As above. Three mint blocks of 4 from plate 72, showing R5/7 and 8/4 varieties (both listed in Vol. 4 of the Handbook) and R2/18 extra line of colour above top frame	£6.00
(c)	As above. Three marginal mint blocks (6, 8 and 18 stamps) from plate 77, with R1/12, 1/17 and 3/6 (MV2d(j)) varieties	£14.00
(d)	As above. Mint block of 8 with plate 115 R1/22 variety, as listed in Vol. 4	£5.00
(e)	As above. Imprint/plate no 121 block of 12, including R10/3 and 10/6 varieties	£5.00
(f)	As above. Three mint blocks, plate 122, including R1/1, 1/2, 2/17, 1/19, 2/21, 1/22, 1/23, 1/24 doubling of 'Postage & Revenue' letters. 20 stamps	£4.00
(g)	As above. Used horizontal strip of 3 from a slot machine — the proving gripper-pin marks clearly visible close to the vertical perfs	£5.00
236	1d Green, Coarse HM Paper (M2e). Unmounted mint block of 4	£3.00
237(a)	1d on ½d Green (M3a). Four mint shades of green	£1.00
(b)	As above, similar set of 4 shades, mint blocks of 4	£4.00
238(a)	1½d Chocolate (M4a). Mint block of 4, chocolate shade	£16.00
(b)	As above. Three fine shades, mint singles	£12.00
(c)	As above. Mint blocks of 4, one wmk upright the other wmk inverted (superb shade contrasts into the bargain!)	£35.00
(d)	As above. Mint copy with inverted wmk (M4aY)	£5.00
(e)	As above. Once again three shades, all mint, all inverted wmk	£15.00
(f)	As above. Similar set of 3 contrasts, used (inverted wmk)	£4.00
(g)	As above. Two mint blocks, both inverted wmk, delightful contrasts of shade	£30.00
239	Inverted Wmk Set. Three used — ½d green (M1aZ), 1d scarlet (M2aZ), 1½d chocolate (M4aY). All from booklets (these values with 'inverts' invariably are)	£3.00
240(a)	1½d Rose-Red, Fine HM Paper (M4b). Three delicate shades, mint	70p
(b)	As above. Similar shades set, but unmounted mint blocks of 4	£2.50
(c)	As above. Five marginal mint stamps (four u/m) with plate nos 20 (R & L) and 21 (R & L) in the selvage — plate 21 left is a vertical pair including the R5/1 re-entry	£4.00
(d)	As above. Two plate blocks of 4, no. 20, right and left selvage. Mint	£4.00
241(a)	1½d Rose-Red, Coarse VM Paper (M4c). The two Catalogued shades, scarlet and deep scarlet, mint	20p

(b)	As above , but mint blocks of 4	£1.00
(c)	As above . This is not a stamp noted for shades. Our set of 5 different mint is therefore quite unusual	£2.00
(d)	As above . Complete set of imprint/plate blocks, includes (i) blocks of 8 – plate nos 20 and 21; (ii) block of 6 – plate 129 (including the R9/22 retouch, MV4c(c)); (iii) blocks of 4 – nos 130, 131, 132, 136, 137. Lovely set, mint	£7.50
(e)	As above . Imprint/plate blocks of 8, plate nos 20 and 21, mint	£1.50
(f)	As above . Mint imprint/plate block of 4, nos 130, 136 or 137, each block	60p
(g)	As above . Plates 20 and 21 had the numbers removed from the right and left selvages, before printings on the coarse paper were made, and new nos inserted below the imprint in the bottom selvedge. The removal of the original plate nos was not total and traces remain in the side selvages. This mint block of 4 from plate 21 shows these 'remains' to perfection	£7.50
(h)	As above . Two distinctly different grades of paper, one thin the other much thicker, offered as follows:	
	(i) Two imprint/plate 21 blocks of 8	£8.00
	(ii) Mint blocks of 4	£4.00
	(iii) Mint singles	£1.00
(i)	As above . Unmounted mint horizontal pair, one stamp with partial offset. Most attractive	£3.00
(j)	As above . Mint corner block of 21 (7x3) from plate 20 with R8/18 retouch – MV4c(a). Minor fault, but truly positional blocks of this variety are seldom seen	£2.50
(k)	As above . Mint corner block of 12 (2x6) from plate 21, with R5/1 and 8/1 varieties (illustration supplied)	£3.00
(l)	As above . Mint marginal block of 12 (3x4) includes R4/10 retouch from plate 21 – MV4c(b)	£5.00
(m)	As above . Two marginal mint blocks from plate 132, including the extremely fine retouches at R9/11 and 9/18	£10.00
(n)	As above . Mint corner block of 10 (5x2) from plate 136, R1/24 variety with much doubling of lower background lines (supplied with illustration)	£5.00
242(a)	2d on 1½d (M5a) . Five shades of chocolate, mint	£1.50
(b)	As above . Two mint blocks of 4, nice contrasts	£3.00
(c)	As above . For the collector of used, a set of 5 shades	£1.00
(d)	As above . Mint marginal block of 4, showing how the old 'chocolate' plate no. was blacked out and then removed by a punched hole	£4.00
(e)	As above . Two corner pairs, and a single (all mint), and two used copies, each showing a surcharge variety. 7 stamps	£5.00