

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

by Colin Hamilton

Among our offers this month is a set of Full Face Queen die-prints taken from a copy of Volume 2 of "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand". Readers who are not familiar with this Handbook will almost certainly not know the die-prints either, for they are very rarely separated from the book (in fact, we have seen only two such sets previously). Several aspects of their history and background are of general interest so, with acknowledgement to The Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand (the publishers), I quote the details given in Volume 2:

"When it was learnt that the Post and Telegraph Department had acquired the original dies for the 'full-faces', it was thought that interest would be added to this volume if reproductions from the dies could be included. The original proposal was that they should be printed in black, but a suggestion was made that reproduction in the colours of some of the rarer 'full-face' stamps would provide a valuable reference guide for collectors. Audit approval having been obtained, the Post and Telegraph Department agreed to send the dies to Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co, so that they could make the necessary prints in colours. On receipt of the dies in London, it was found that those of the 1d and 3d values had flaws, therefore Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., arranged with Messrs. Thomas De La Rue & Co. Ltd., to prepare new dies from the original transfer rollers."

"As a safeguard against any possibility of the proof impressions being mistaken for genuine issues, it was requested that the colours should be rearranged so that they did not agree with those of the original stamps. A further suggestion was made that the assistance of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, should be invited to ensure as close a matching as possible with the shades desired. Sir John Wilson, President of the Royal Philatelic Society, conferred with Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., but even the collaboration of a philatelist of Sir John's standing with the original producers of the stamps, did not wholly achieve the results required. Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., carried out most extensive and painstaking experiments —

REMINDER

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incidentally this necessary work delayed the publication of the book — but, although they were able to consult the original formulae for the inks, they reported that it was quite impossible to simulate exactly the appearance of the 1d, 2d and 1s London Prints. Various factors were responsible for this failure, the pigments which were in use 100 years ago are not available today, and even if they were, it would be impossible to get them to the mellow condition brought about by such a period of time. Also, extreme difficulty was experienced in obtaining a paper which had the appearance of age. These features are all the more exacting when the judge of paper and the matching of colour is a philatelist."

"The printers have explained that, even if the original raw materials were procurable, they could not establish exactly the same conditions that set up chemical action in the 2d and 1s London prints. It was stated further that die proofs are so much clearer in the cut line and show a considerable amount of paper which the plate prints more often than not cover up. This sharpness of print does considerably affect the appearance and, even if it were possible to obtain the identical ink used in the plate printing, it would look very different when printed from the die."

"In a further effort to imitate the original stamps, the dies have been impressed on a yellowish-tinted paper."

"Notwithstanding the failure to provide completely reliable standards for comparison, this Society is confident that the beauty of the coloured prints will be appreciated."

"The reproductions from the dies have been carried out with the same security precautions as apply in the production of all New Zealand stamps. Every print has had to be accounted for and any copies surplus to those actually required for inclusion in this volume, will be destroyed. Furthermore, the dies will be defaced and consequently no further reproductions in this form will be possible."

Curiously, perhaps, no precise indication is given of the rare shades which were attempted. Even though (as stated) exact matching proved impossible, the list is evidently as follows:

- 1d proof — in dull blue, simulating the 2d London Print (S.G. 2).
- 2d proof — in deep carmine-red, simulating the 1d London Print (S.G. 1).
- 3d proof — in yellow-green, simulating the 1/- London Print (S.G. 3).
- 4d proof — in slate-blue, simulating the 2d Davies Print (S.G. 37).
- 6d proof — in brown-lilac, simulating the 3d (S.G. 40, 74, 116).
- 1/- proof — in chestnut, simulating the 6d Richardson Print (S.G. 15).

The difficulties experienced with the colours, incidentally, graphically illustrate the limitations of any colour chart it would be possible to mass-produce. Several of these have been available to collectors — some still are — but all suffer from the same shortcomings, however well and carefully produced. The user wants to find an exact match for a difficult shade, but the best he can hope for from any chart is an approximation only.

..... or for someone who wants just one perfect example of a New Zealand Full-Face Queen as an introduction to his collection — here is the stamp! A 2d Richardson print on white paper (these issues represent the highest standard of the 19th century stamp printer's art). Four good even margins, light crisp cancellation leaving the portrait clear, lovely fresh colour, and absolutely free of defects. What more can one say? The perfect classic (S.G. cat £175)

A complete set of six, as included in Volume 2 of the N.Z. Handbook (see this month's notes). Each of these beautiful works of the printer's art is on large piece, uniformly trimmed to 65mm x 75mm approx., thus allowing them to be displayed to perfection on a single album leaf, if desired (or why not give each a page to itself? They deserve special treatment!) The brilliant and unusual set

£47.50

LONDON PRINT 5/- MT COOK (E21a).

Despite catalogue values, this stamp is very much scarcer used than mint. We have available a copy which most would describe as simply superb used. Although there is no fiscal embossing, insufficient of the corner cancellation is present to enable us to guarantee postal usage, so we must be content with the description "apparently postally used", hence the gift price of

£22.50

N.Z. HEALTH FIRST DAY COVERS

A complete run of F.D.C. from 1935 - 1981 inclusive, all bearing full sets of the relevant Health stamps. Seldom available in such an extensive and unbroken run. The set of 48 covers covering 47 years of Health issues (1942 being on two separate covers). Now Cat. \$ 319, to the first order at

£115.00

VARIETY FANFARE

A selection of offers to give that out-of-the-ordinary touch to a collection.

K.E.VII 8d Official. Lovely used block of 4, perf. 14x14½, with variety **Watermark Inverted (H07bZ)**. Cat. \$ 140 as single stamps — must be rare in used block

£52.50

1d Dominion. Superb mint copy on 'Art' paper, with imitation watermark lithographed on the front (design) side (J5aZ). Now Cat. \$ 100

£37.50

Second Pictorial 5d. Marginal copy in the rare and distinctive **Cobalt Blue** — the shade associated with the Double Print, One Albino variety (L8fX). The other 'albino' characteristics — notably blurred print, and colourless duplication of the design (7mm left and 3mm low) show up beautifully, and the variety is additionally confirmed by clear pressure line in the selvage. Fresh, lightly hinged mint, and now Cat. \$ 450. The bargain of the month ..

£75.00

King George VI 1/-. The "Centre Double Print, One Albino" (M13aZ) is one of the major varieties in K.G.VI issues. Only part of one sheet was ever found. The example here offered is not top grade (it has gum stains and a minor internal fault), but it shows the pronounced blurring and distinctively bright 'copper-brown' shade beautifully. A wonderful opportunity for someone who cannot aspire to a fine copy of this rare error (now Cat. \$ 500)

£25.00

1960 Pictorial 1d. Imprint/plate block on chalky paper. A peculiarity of printings on this paper is that no less than five of the eight stamps in this block show prominent retouching to one or more of the green leaves

£2.40

810	1960 Pictorial 2½d. Remarkable set of five blocks of 4, all with different misplacements of one or more colours. "Fruit Salad" with a vengeance—but they make an extraordinary display	£20.00
811	1960 Pictorial 3d. Blue plate 5 has a prominent flaw on R4/6, above and between the two upper flowers. This flaw was retouched during the life of the plate. Our set of two positional (corner) blocks of 24 shows both states . A flaw-and-retouch progression which is absent from most collections we've seen	£12.50
812	1960 Pictorial 1/3d. Marginal copy with massive misplacement to the right of the brown colour. Result is a really spectacular "Double Fish, One Albino"!	£17.50
813	15c Tiki. A few months ago (Dec. 1981 and Feb. 1982) we reported a watermark variety in the redrawn design issue of this stamp (OD12b). The variety took the form of a star totally omitted from one of the watermark 'bits'. We can now offer a plate block showing this interesting and most unusual variety — since the omission falls in the selvage, it is particularly easy to see. The block, unhinged mint	£12.50
814	8c John Dory. Marginal strip of 3 on unwmk'd paper (P11b) with partial offset of the black colour on the back of all three stamps. Offered at little more than the price of the basic stamps, which are themselves already quite scarce	£4.75
815(a)	1959 Red Cross. A fine specialised showing of this stamp, including plate/imprint block, sheet value block, and three other blocks showing no less than 6 plate varieties (all listed in Vol. 4 of the Handbook). 30 stamps, all mint	£6.00
(b)	As above. Two matching positional blocks of 6 showing R13/6 original flaw (rare) and subsequent retouch. Both states are illustrated in our Catalogue, and listed as SV84a(a) and (b). The blocks also include constant minor varieties on R11/6 and 13/5 — full details supplied. Min. Cat. now \$205, last chance at	£57.50
816(a)	1961 Christmas. Marginal block of 4 with double perforations at left. Unlisted variety	£10.00
(b)	As above. Superb used copy with variety Watermark Inverted (SC2aZ). A good one!	£10.00
817	1965 Christmas. Marginal block of 4 with excellent example of double perfs at right (SC6aX)	£17.50
818	1933 Health. Corner block of the 'Pathway' (with full selvages), including the R2/1 'LT' retouch in the value panel at right (T5aX). Naked-eye variety — these letters are misshapen, and notably shorter than normal. Block is unhinged mint, but a couple of negligible gum tones allow	£37.50
819	1957 Health 2d+1d. The attractive "Bunion on Foot" variety (T29aZ) in unmounted corner block of 6 with sheet value marking. Cat. \$15	£4.75

820	1959 Health. An attractive all-variety collection, with two constant plate varieties on each of the values (one of the 2d's is in miniature sheet), 3d inverted watermark and two different colour shifts, plus a complete re-plate of the 3d miniature sheets, with all necessary details for writing up. 84 stamps, all mint. Minimum Cat. \$ 145, an excellent buy for someone at ..	£37.50
821	1963 Health 3d+1d. Matching mint corner blocks of 15 showing the well known Pl. 1B R3/5 Finger Flaw in both the original state (scarce) and the later state with flaw partly removed (T35b(Z) and (Y)). Now Cat. \$ 65	£22.50
822	1947 Life Insurance 3d. Used copy on Vertical Mesh Paper (X17aZ). Normals have horizontal mesh	£3.50
823	1d Victoria Land. Good mint copy with striking variety "Raised IA" in overprint	£27.50

KING GEORGE VI, CONTINUED

As usual full annotation provided where necessary.

824(a)	1/- Upright Wmk, Centre Die 1 (M13a). Set of five mint plate blocks (pl. nos 1 - 1), the first block has R15/2 without 'E' flaw; the other blocks all have R15/2 with 'E' flaw, and they show different states of centre and frame plate flaws on R15/1, 15/2, 16/1, 16/2. A lovely set	£25.00
(b)	As above. Two unmounted mint marginal blocks of 6 (both including R13/2 frame variety) — one block has R13/3 double frame flaws, the other is without these flaws. Superb	£12.50
(c)	As above. Three mint corner blocks of 4, showing varying stages of R16/10 centre variety (two states of the flaw and the later retouch)	£12.50
(d)	As above. Single mint stamp, with R6/6 centre variety — 4 flaws to left of head	£3.50
825(a)	1/- Sideways Wmk (M13b). Four plate 1 - 1 blocks of 4, all with R15/2 'E' flaw, showing different states of R15/1, 16/1-2 varieties. Very fine	£17.50
(b)	As above. Unmounted mint single with watermark inverted (M13bZ)	£7.50
(c)	As above. Corner block of 4 (stamps unmounted), including R2/1 and 2/2 centre plate retouches	£6.00
(d)	As above. Mint copies showing R6/6 variety in three different states (2, 3 and 4 flaws to left of head respectively)	£7.50
(e)	As above. Marginal unmounted block of 6, including R13/2 and 13/3 frame varieties	£7.50
(f)	As above. Marginal unmounted block of 4, including R15/5, 16/4 and 16/5 frame varieties	£10.00

826(a)	1/- Upright Wmk, Centre Die 2 (M13c). Set of two plate blocks of 4 (pl. nos 3A-2 and 4-2), mint, and complete	£7.50
(b)	As above. Set of 3 plate blocks (all pl. no. 4-2), the brown centres in fine shade variations	£12.00
(c)	As above. Marginal mint copy with watermark inverted (M13cZ)	£12.50
(d)	As above. Mint block of 4, including R6/8 and 7/7 centre plate 3A retouches	£6.00
(e)	As above. Two marginal pairs, including R9/10 flaw and retouch (also from centre plate 3A)	£7.50
(f)	As above. Marginal block of 8, including frame R10/7 and 11/7 varieties	£6.00
(g)	As above. Corner block of 4, including R16/9 centre retouch (MCV13c(d)). Unmounted	£10.00
(h)	As above. Set of 3 plated blocks, showing the transfer roller deterioration that occurred during the laying down of frame plate 2. An unusual and philatelically interesting set	£20.00
827(a)	1/3d Sideways Wmk, Frame Die 1a (M14a). Plate block of 4, pl. nos 2-1 or 3A-1, each block	£5.00
(b)	As above. Plate 3A-1 block of 6, including R15/3 re-entry (MFV14a(b)) and R16/2 variety	£12.50
(c)	As above. Unmounted mint stamp with watermark inverted (M14aZ)	£3.00
(d)	As above. Plate 3A-1 block of 4, also watermark inverted. Unmounted mint and superb	£17.50
(e)	As above. Marginal block of 4, including R4/2 variety (frame plate 1)	£7.50
(f)	As above. Block of 4, including R6/8 and 7/7 flaws (centre plate 3A). Mint	£10.00
(g)	As above. Mint vertical pair, including R7/4 flaw (also from centre plate 3A)	£5.00
(h)	As above. Marginal mint block of 6, including R9/3 centre and 10/3 frame varieties (from plate 2-1)	£10.00
(i)	As above. Marginal block matching the previous lot, but from plate 3A-1, thus including R10/3 frame variety, but not R9/3 centre variety	£8.00
(j)	As above. Mint block of 4, including R9/4 centre plate 3A variety	£7.50
(k)	As above. Mint block of 4, including R11/6 flaw (centre plate 3A)	£7.50
(l)	As above. Two marginal blocks of 6 showing frame R13/8 flaw and retouch	£17.50

(To be continued)

The three printers involved all have their own distinctive symbols to identify reprints — Harrisons use circular coloured dots (of varying sizes); Courvoisier use black oblique lines; and Heraclio Fournier use asterisks, both black and coloured. For those who do not collect these markings in depth, and for those who appreciate the unusual little sideline collection, we have made up a set of six blocks which show every variation of reprint marking known to have appeared to date, that is Harrison one dot, two dot and three dot (examples are selected to demonstrate the differing sizes of dots), Heraclio Fournier one-asterisk (black) and two-asterisk (coloured) and Courvoisier one black oblique.

An inexpensive, attractive, interesting, unusual and complete representative set. Price

£10.00

- N.B. Purchasers who wish to keep their newly acquired 'Reprint Marking Reference Set' right up to date in the future should mention this fact, and we shall supply any new variations which may appear subsequently.

1975 - 82 PICTORIAL DEFINITIVES

Present understanding is that these will begin to become obsolete with the issue of five new definitives on December 1st this year, so collectors are advised to ensure that any gaps in their collections are filled now. Many of the earlier plate/imprint and reprint blocks are already obsolete, of course, but we can still supply those in the listing below (in most cases stocks are very limited, so it has to be first come, first served).

- | | | |
|---------------|---|-----|
| 831(a) | 1c Rose (PA1a). Imprint/plate 1A or 1B, original issue without reprint dot. Each block (of 10 stamps) | 60p |
| (b) | As above. Imprint/plate 1A or 1B, with one reprint dot. Each block (of 15 stamps) | 60p |
| (c) | As above. Imprint/plate 1A or 1B, with two reprint dots. Each block (of 15 stamps) | 60p |
| (d) | As above. Imprint/plate 1A or 1B, with three reprint dots. Each block (of 20 stamps) | 40p |
| 832(a) | 2c Rose (PA2a). Imprint/plate 1A or 1B, original issue without reprint dot. Each block (of 10 stamps) | 60p |
| (b) | As above. Imprint/plate 1A or 1B, with one reprint dot. Each block (of 15 stamps) | 60p |
| (c) | As above. Imprint/plate 1A or 1B, with two reprint dots. Each block (of 15 stamps) | 60p |
| 833(a) | 3c Rose, Perf. 14½x13¾ (PA3a). Imprint/plate 1A or 1B, original issue without reprint dot. Each block (of 10 stamps) | 75p |
| (b) | As above. Imprint/plate 1A or 1B, with two reprint dots. Each block (of 15 stamps) | 75p |

834(a)	4c Rose (PA4a). Imprint/plate 1A or 1B, original issue without reprint dot. Each block (of 10 stamps)	£1.00
(b)	As above. Imprint/plate 1A or 1B, with one reprint dot. Each block (of 15 stamps)	£1.00
835(a)	5c Rose (PA5a). Imprint/plate 1A or 1B, original issue without reprint dot. Each block (of 10 stamps)	£1.20
(b)	As above. Imprint/plate 1A or 1B, with one reprint dot. Each block (of 15 stamps)	£1.20
(c)	As above. Imprint/plate 1A or 1B, with two reprint dots. Each block (of 15 stamps)	£1.20
(d)	As above. Imprint/plate 1A or 1B, with three reprint dots. Each block (of 20 stamps)	£1.20
836	6c Rose, Perf. 14½x14½ (PA6a). Imprint/plate 1A or 1B, no reprint dot. Each block (of 10 stamps)	£5.00
837	6c Rose, Perf. 14½x13½ (PA6b). Imprint/plate 2A or 2B, no reprint dot. Each block (of 10 stamps)	£1.00
838	7c Rose, Perf. 14½x14½ (PA7a). Imprint/plate 1A, block of 10 stamps, no reprint dot	£10.00
839(a)	7c Rose, Perf. 14½x13½ (PA7b). Imprint/plate 2A or 2B, no reprint dot. Each block (of 10 stamps)	£1.50
(b)	As above. Imprint/plate 2A or 2B, with one reprint dot. Each block (of 15 stamps)	£1.50
840	8c Rose, Perf. 14½x14½ (PA8a). Imprint/plate 1A or 1B, no reprint dot. Each block (of 10 stamps)	£10.00
841	8c Rose, Perf. 14½x13½ (PA8b). Imprint/plate 2A or 2B, no reprint dot. Each block (of 10 stamps)	£1.50
842(a)	9c Rose (PA9a). Imprint/plate 1A or 1B, no reprint dot. Each block (of 10 stamps)	£2.00
(b)	As above. Imprint/plate 1A or 1B, with one reprint dot. Each block (of 15 stamps)	£2.00
843(a)	10c Queen in Frame, Perf. 14½x13½ (PA10a). Imprint/plate 1A, 2A1A or 2B1B, without reprint dots. Each block (of 10 stamps)	£7.50
(b)	As above. Imprint/plate 1A, 1B or 2B1B, with one reprint dot. Each block (of 15 stamps)	£7.50
844(a)	10c Queen in Frame, Perf. 14½x14½ (PA10b). Imprint/plate 3A2A or 3B2B, with two reprint dots. Each block (of 10 stamps)	£2.50
(b)	As above. Imprint/plate 3A2A, 3B2B, 4A2A, 4B2B, with three reprint dots. Each block (of 10 stamps)	£1.50

(To be concluded next month)