

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN

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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

by Colin Hamilton



10d Full-Face Queen! Mr. Leppard of London has shown me a recently acquired copy in blue with the value tablet clearly reading TENPENCE. A forgery, of course. A large triangular area of the original stamp (a roulette 7 2d Davies) had been removed, replaced by grafting in a new piece of paper, and the value altered from TWOPENCE to TENPENCE by an artistic bit of re-drawing.

Mr. Leppard asks three questions: (a) Is it a known forgery?; (b) Was it a one-off forgery to pay a postage rate of 10d?; (c) Or is it a modern fraud?

The answer to (a) is that I have certainly never heard of such a thing before.

Although there is no means of answering (b) and (c) with certainty, these two questions do raise an intriguing point. Around 1865, there was indeed a postage rate of 10d per ½ oz. (on letters to U.K.). So it is quite possible that the forgery was contemporary — and it would of course be much more interesting if this were in fact the case. Although the work involved seems nowadays to be out of all proportion to the gain, a saving of 8d on a single letter would, in the 1860's be an altogether more worthwhile proposition to the unscrupulous.

Plate Blocks to Watch For (continued). Earlier notes have covered the period up to the Second Pictorials. We now come to what is, of all issues, perhaps the most prolific of all in the type of "sleeping pearl" this series surveys. Among the King George VI definitives there are numerous instances of ordinarily quite humble stamps which, solely by reason of their association with a particular plate number, assume a special value.

There is hardly a commoner stamp than the K.G.VI 1d Green. In its decade or so of currency, printings were made from over fifty different plates, and even nowadays the vast majority of plate blocks are worth just a pound or two each. Yet among this plethora of plate blocks — and looking to the casual eye not a whit different from their lowly companions — are to be found plate nos. 26 and 126. Blocks showing either of these numbers are two of the greatest gems in modern N.Z. philately. Only a handful of sheets — all in green — were printed from the latter. In the case of 26, however, it is vital to remember that it **must** be in green to be really good (the same plate was used for the earlier 1d Red, and examples in this colour are relatively common). The 2d Orange, another everyday stamp, also provides two rarities in plate block form. Plate nos. 61 and 82 are the ones to set the mental alarm bells ringing here, but they differ in one very important respect from the 1d plates already mentioned. These numbers themselves are both quite common on vertical mesh paper 2ds. **Only when on the horizontal mesh paper (M6b) are they at all out of the ordinary.** This fact alone multiplies the chances of a find at least a thousandfold, for not one person in a thousand would know of it; far less still would spot the

essential difference if they saw it. Surely the perfect illustration of the advantage given by the ability to identify mesh. Just how advantageous in this case may be gauged from the fact that, of plate 61, only one block has ever been found (it is possible, of course, that only one actually exists, but my hunch is that others are around, waiting to be identified).

A similar, though not identical, set of circumstances is to be found in the 1/3d value. Plate 3A-2 is frequently found with watermark sideways, and is therefore quite unremarkable thus. But find the same plate number on the final 1/3d issue with watermark upright, and you have something really good.

Readers of these notes may feel that to take full advantage of them requires a considerable effort of memory. Not so! They are in fact no more than a distillation of just a little of the information permanently available to anyone making intelligent use of the C.P. Catalogue. Moreover, it is assumed that the interested reader will be encouraged to investigate further, and discover other examples for himself. For instance, in the 8d compare plate 110 with the other three plates used; or in the 3d, see how much better are plates 138 and 139 on fine paper than on coarse; or in the 3d on 1d Provisional, make particular note of plate 109.

Among the George VI Official plate blocks, elusiveness tends to be the rule rather than the exception. Nevertheless there are a number which stand out as exceptional: ½d Green — Plate 1 (another "one only known", but others may well exist); ½d Chestnut — Plate 133; 1d Green — Plate 121; 2d — Plates 68 and 141. And don't overlook the 1d Green Plate 85 — fairly mundane on vertical mesh paper, but rare with horizontal mesh.

Finally in the George VI period, the special issues too have their share of deceptively drab-looking 'diamonds'. Always keep an eye out for the 1940 Centennial 2d Plates A7 and A8, and the 1945 Health 2d + 1d Plate A2.

"All very well, but it can never happen to me", do I hear everyone muttering? Maybe so. But within the last month or two one of the above turned up (anonymously, in an otherwise modest collection) in public auction in this country. I purchased the entire collection for considerably less than I'd willingly have paid for that one block by itself, so I can only conclude that no one else (not even the vendor?) recognised it. Not that I'm complaining! But how much better the owner could have done for himself by offering his collection to us.

Correction. Following my note on the conversion of the CHRISTCHURCH/EXHIBITION datestamp (N.Z. Bulletin, March 1983), Dr. K.J. McNaught points out that the erroneous information given in Volume 3 of the N.Z. Handbook is corrected in Volume 6, pp 387-388.

KING EDWARD VII (Concluded)

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|--------|---|---------|
| 501(a) | 8d Indigo-Blue, Perf. 14x14½ (H7b). Set of three shades of indigo, one being most unusually pale. All superb mint | £25.00 |
| (b) | As above. Another set of three indigo shades, but in lovely mint pairs | £50.00 |
| (c) | As above. Mint block of 4, perfect appearance, but one stamp has a tiny hinge-thin (the only positive defect in the entire listing!), hence only | £20.00 |
| 502 | 8d Indigo-Blue, Perf. 14x13½ (H7c). Mint pairs in deep indigo and deep bright blue — the shade contrasts to crown all shade contrasts (well, not quite — see the following two lots!). The two pairs, superfine | £40.00 |
| 503(a) | 8d Two-Perfs. Se-Tenant (H7d). Superb mint block of 4 in deep indigo | £125.00 |
| (b) | As above. A second two-perf. block, this one in deep bright blue — with the previous block mirroring the breathtaking shades of lot 502 | £125.00 |

504(a)	1/- Orange-Vermilion, Perf. 14 line (H8a). Mint copy, very fine	£60.00
(b)	As above. Another example in a brilliant, bright shade, and perfectly centred. A remarkable stamp	£67.50
(c)	As above. Block of 4, mint and superfine	£275.00
505(a)	1/- Orange-Vermilion, Perf. 14x14½ (H8b). Superb mint copy in vermilion or bright vermilion, each	£65.00
(b)	As above. Glorious mint pair in bright vermilion. Perfectly centred	£135.00
(c)	As above. Superb mint block of 4, pale orange-vermilion shade. Absolutely beautiful!	£275.00
(d)	As above. Riches indeed! Another 1/- block, this one in a definite vermilion. Although the perforations are unquestionably all the product of the same 14x14½ head, this block shows lateral stepping between the upper and lower pairs, characteristic of the 'two-perf.' method which is known to have been in use at the time. The block, superfine mint	£295.00

OFFICIALS

506	½d Green (H01a). Two fine shades, superb mint	£5.00
507	3d Chestnut, Perf. 14x14½ (H03a). Again two excellent shades finest mint	£35.00
508	3d Chestnut, Perf. 14x13½ (H03c). The most difficult of the basic Edward Officials. This copy is centred to the right, but otherwise superfine mint	£50.00
509	3d Two-Perfs Se-Tenant (H03e). Of the very few 14x13½ over 14x14½ pairs we have handled in recent years, none has been as wonderfully fresh and fine as this. A gem of a rarity	£385.00
510	6d Carmine (H06b). Superfine mint	£22.50
511	8d Indigo-Blue, Perf. 14x14½ (H07b). Set of two, one with the normal wmk upright, the other with variety Watermark Inverted. Both finest mint	£30.00
512	8d Indigo-Blue, Perf. 14x13½ (H07c). Superb mint copy	£13.50
513	8d Two-Perfs. Se-Tenant (H07d). Two pairs in lovely contrasting shades, and finest mint condition	£115.00
514	1/- Orange-Vermilion (H08b). Superb mint	£70.00

1898 PICTORIALS (Continued)

515(a)	1/- London Print (E18a) Superb mint copy, Cat. \$100 (if you require a specific Catalogued shade, request it and we will supply if possible), each ..	£32.50
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(b) As above. Set of the three listed shades, fine used	£45.00
(c) As above. Very fine used copy, with an 1898 date	£17.50
(d) As above. Used single, c.d.s. cancel	£15.00
(e) As above. Magnificent vertical pair, showing R5/12 and 6/12 re-entries (both listed in Volume 1 of the Handbook) used	£45.00
(f) As above. R7/11 re-entry, Mint	£37.50
(g) As above. Lovely mint copy (in a glorious deep shade) of the major R10/11 re-entry (EV18d – also illustrated in our Catalogue)	£55.00

516(a) 1/- Perf. 11, No Wmk (E18b). This is a set in a million – all 6 Catalogued shades and in glorious mint condition. Miss it and you may well wait years for another	£120.00
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(b) As above. Single stamp, mint, our choice of shade	£12.50
(c) As above. Another set of the 6 listed shades (nay, colours!), but in fine used condition	£42.50
(d) As above. For the collector requiring specific shades, we can offer the following (used):-	
(i) shade 1, red	£7.00
(ii) shade 2, dull red	£6.00
(iii) shade 4, dull orange-red	£4.00
(iv) shade 5, bright orange-red	£7.00

517(a) 1/- Perf. 11, Wmk'd (E18d). Mint set, this time of 5 super red shades, unrepeatable	£90.00
(b) As above. Single mint stamp	£15.00
(c) As above. Superfine mint stamp (orange-brown shade), with Letter Wmk (unusual thus)	£22.50
(d) As above. One of the scarcer shades in this issue is bright red (C.P. E18d(4), S.G. 370). We have one beautiful mint copy available at	£24.00
(e) As above. Complete set of the 6 listed shades, all used, providing yet another brilliant red rainbow	£30.00
(f) As above. Three used stamps, with watermark sideways, sideways-inverted, and sideways-inverted-and-reversed	£13.50
(g) As above. If a specific fine used shade is required, request it and we will supply if possible at, each	£4.00

518(a)	1/- Perf. 14 (E18e). The most elusive of all the 'basic' 1/-'s, so this mint set of 4 outstanding contrasts is all the more remarkable. Needless to say, one set only available	£80.00
(b)	As above. The complete set of 5 Catalogued shades, brilliant used condition, and very scarce	£40.00
519(a)	1/- Reduced, Perf. 14x12½ — 13½ (E19a). Mint copy, well centred, lovely colour, lightly hinged	£100.00
(b)	As above. Two attractive shades, one deep, the other pale, used	£50.00
(c)	As above. Used single (S.G. 439, Cat. £38)	£25.00
520(a)	1/- Reduced, Perf. 14x15 (E19b). This mint stamp is as near to perfection as one could wish, well-centred, full perfs, beautiful colour, very very lightly hinged	£95.00
(b)	As above. Two used, deep and pale orange-red, superb contrasts	£30.00
(c)	As above. Used single (S.G. Cat. £24)	£13.50

COLLECTOR PACKS

The most comprehensive listing we can recall of these attractive modern items (all with contents complete as issued). In many cases only one pack is available, so don't delay (all prices include postage).

521(a)	1971 Collectors Pack (S.G. 966CP), 19 stamps in a highly decorative folder (S.G. Cat. £18)	£13.50
(b)	1972 Collectors Pack (S.G. 993CP), 25 stamps, in colourful folder (S.G. Cat. £22)	£17.50
(c)	1973 Collectors Pack (S.G. 1036CP), 23 stamps in a brilliant folder (S.G. Cat. £22)	£20.00
(d)	1974 Collectors Pack (S.G. 1060CP), 22 stamps and 1 miniature sheet, once again in a highly desirable folder (S.G. Cat. £22)	£17.00
(e)	1975 Collectors Pack (S.G. 1085CP), 24 stamps in a colourful folder (S.G. Cat. £18)	£15.00
(f)	1976 Collectors Pack (S.G. 1131CP), 21 stamps in a large open-up folder, beautiful designs (S.G. Cat. £18)	£15.00
(g)	1977 Collectors Pack (S.G. 1159CP), 20 stamps plus 1 mini sheet, in another large open-up folder, superb colours and illustrations (S.G. Cat. £12)	£10.50
(h)	1978 Collectors Pack (S.G. 1184CP), 24 stamps, attractive folder (S.G. Cat. £9.50)	£7.25

(i)	1979 Collectors Pack (S.G. 1206CP), 18 stamps in attractive '1d Universal' orientated folder	£5.00
(j)	1980 Collectors Pack (S.G. 1207/31CP), 23 stamps + 1 mini sheet, in 'Chalon Head' orientated folder	£6.50
(k)	1981 Collectors Pack (S.G. 1237/55CP), 18 stamps + 1 mini sheet, attractive folder	£7.50
(l)	1982 Collectors Pack , 19 stamps + 1 mini sheet, attractive folder	£7.50
522	The above lot of 12 Collector Packs (521 a - l) subject unsold as only one set is available	£115.00
523(a)	1976 First Day Cover Pack , 5 F.D.C.'s in slip-in folder	£11.50
(b)	1977 F.D.C. Pack , 8 F.D.C.'s, slip-in folder	£15.00
(c)	1978 F.D.C. Pack , 8 F.D.C.'s, slip-in folder	£11.50
(d)	1979 F.D.C. Pack , 7 F.D.C.'s, slip-in folder	£6.50
(e)	1980 F.D.C. Pack , 7 F.D.C.'s, slip-in folder	£11.50
(f)	1981 F.D.C. Pack , 8 F.D.C.'s, slip-in folder	£8.00
524	The above set of 6 First Day Cover Packs (523 a - f) also subject unsold	£55.00
525(a)	1974 Commonwealth Games Pack , the set of 5 stamps housed in a superb 'sport' illustrated folder	£5.00
(b)	1980 Definitive Pack , includes 1c - 9c Roses, 10c Queen, 15c - 60c Maori Heads, 20c - \$2 Sea Shells. Lovely folder	£6.75
(c)	1982 Ross Dependency Pack , the set of 6 stamps, in a brilliant 'Antarctica' orientated folder	£3.50
(d)	1983 Commonwealth Day Pack . Just out, the 4 stamps in a nice colourful folder	£2.50

MODERN HEALTH VARIETIES

Full annotation provided where necessary. All stamps unmounted mint.

526(a)	1976 Health 7c + 1c (T48a, S.G. 1125). Imprint/plate (1B) block of 10, including R9/4 "pale face" variety	£1.75
(b)	1976 Health 8c + 1c (T48b, S.G. 1126). Two sheet value blocks of 4, one normal (\$9.00), the other 'abnormal' (\$9.00)!	£2.00
527(a)	1977 Health 7c + 2c (T49a, S.G. 1149). Two superb shades, both red and green contrasts. Mint singles (blocks of 4 pro-rata)	75p

(b)	As above. Corner block of 10 (plate 1B) including R1/2 and 2/5 varieties ...	£1.50
(c)	As above. Imprint/plate (1A) block of 10, including both R10/4 and 10/5 listed varieties (T49a Z & Y). Cat. \$10	£2.00
(d)	1977 Health 8c + 2c (T49b, S.G. 1150). Marginal block of 6 (plate 1A) including R2/2 and 3/3 varieties	£1.65
(e)	As above. Corner block of 12 (plate 1A), including R2/8 and R3/7 (T49bZ) varieties	£2.75
(f)	As above. Marginal block of 12 (plate 1A) including R6/7, 6/8 and 8/9 varieties	£2.50
528(a)	1978 Health 12c + 2c (T50b, S.G. 1180). Marginal block of 6 (plate 1A), including R6/8 variety	£1.25
(b)	As above. Marginal block of 4 (plate 1A) including R8/2 variety	£1.00
(c)	As above. Marginal block of 4 (plate 1B) including R8/2 (not the same variety as in the previous lot) and R9/2 varieties	£1.50
529(a)	1979 Health 10c + 2c pair se-tenant (T51a/b, S.G. 1197/8). Corner block of 4, including R2/2 flaw	£1.50
(b)	1979 Health 12c + 2c (T51c, S.G. 1199). Imprint/plate (1B) block of 6, including R9/1 and 10/2 plate scratches (T51aZ)	£2.00
530	1981 Health 25c + 2c (T53c, S.G. 1251). Two shades, all colours in the stamps being different. Superb (blocks of 4 pro-rata)	£1.00

KING GEORGE V RECESS-PRINTED

Commencing a comprehensive list of mint offers of these beautiful 20th century classic issues.

531(a)	1½d Grey, Cowan Paper, Perf. 14x13¼ (K1a). Single stamp, finest mint	£1.50
(b)	As above. Corner copy (full selvages) with plate no. 14. Lightly hinged in selvedge only — condition superb	£30.00
(c)	As above. Plate block of 4 (again full corner selvedge). Some unobtrusive creasing at top, well clear of stamps, otherwise fresh and attractive. Cat. \$150	£55.00
532	1½d Grey, Cowan Paper, Perf. 14x14¼ (K1b). Finest mint copy	£1.50
533(a)	1½d Grey, Cowan Paper, Two Perfs Se-Tenant (K1c). Pair, superb mint	£30.00
(b)	As above. Block of 4, superfine (one pair unhinged)	£67.50
534(a)	1½d Grey, 'Pictorial' Paper, Perf. 14x13¼ (K1d). Good mint copy	50p
(b)	As above. Variety No Watermark (K1dZ)	£1.00

(c)	As above. Corner block of 9 with plate no. 14 about 70% complete (due to trimming of sheets at the printers, blocks showing complete plate numbers on this paper are rarely found). The plate block of 9, incl. three stamps with the merest trace of wmk, condition very fine if centred somewhat to the right	£40.00
535(a)	1½d Grey, 'Pictorial' Paper, Perf. 14x14½ (K1e). Superb unhinged mint	90p
(b)	As above. Hinged copy, but fine mint	50p
(c)	As above. Variety No Watermark (K1eZ). Mint hinged	£1.00
536(a)	1½d Grey, 'Pictorial' Paper, Two Perfs Se-Tenant (K1f). Fine mint pair	£15.00
(b)	As above. Marginal pair, upper stamp rather heavily hinged, appearance nonetheless superb and fresh	£9.00
(c)	As above. Variety pair without watermark (K1fZ). Fine mint	£25.00
(d)	As above. Another No Wmk pair, unhinged and beautiful appearance, but tiny gum defect, hence	£14.50
(e)	As above. Lovely mint block of 6 comprised of three vertical two-perf. pairs, both outer pairs being without watermark. The incidence of alternate columns in any sheet occurring without wmk must be very low, making this a most unusual specialist block	£77.50
537(a)	2d Violet, Perf. 14x13½ (K2a). Finest mint copy	£5.00
(b)	As above. Full-selvage corner copy with plate no. 16. Hinged in selvage only, and superb	£30.00
(c)	As above. Plate block of 4 (pl. 16 again). Stamps centred just a shade left, but a glorious unhinged block	£67.50
538(a)	2d Violet, Perf. 14x14½ (K2b). Brilliant unhinged copy	£7.25
(b)	As above. Lightly hinged, very fine	£5.00
539(a)	2d Violet, Two Perfs Se-Tenant (K2c). First-class mint pair in deep violet or bright violet, each	£22.50
(b)	As above. Pair of superb appearance, but tone spots (visible on the gummed side only) allow	£7.50
(c)	As above. Finest mint block of 4	£50.00

STAR BARGAIN

540	1906 Christchurch Exhibition. Set of 4 (all incidentally with watermark sideways inverted) in quite exceptionally fine mint condition. Centring is unusually good, hingeing light, gum absolutely tone-free, and colours as brilliantly fresh and bright as they could possibly be. C.P. Cat. \$800, S.G. £254. One set only, to the first order at	£175.00
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