

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

by Colin Hamilton

Browsing through our early file copies of the Woking Bulletin, I came across a series of articles penned by Campbell Paterson in the mid-1960s, in which he outlined the potential of rich pickings to be found among the innumerable plate blocks of N.Z. stamps. These notes are no less pertinent today than they were at the time, and since relatively few of our present readers will have access to the originals, I propose to publish, over the next few months, an updated 'repeat'.

(In parentheses, I wonder how many complete sets of N.Z. Bulletin — and of the Auckland Newsletter — have been preserved? Each represents an absolutely unique encyclopaedia of valuable information. If you have either, or both, we'd be interested to know. And should you wish to dispose of a set, we're always in the market!)

Returning to our subject, as far as the general collector is concerned (and the general dealer too) one plate block is pretty much the same as any other, and tends to be treated as such. Yet as our Catalogue frequently indicates, nothing could be farther from the truth. Often a block will have some special value — and this value can be very special indeed — which is simply not evident to anyone not in possession of the necessary specialised knowledge.

The purpose of these notes, then, is to supply that knowledge, and to direct readers' attention to some of the unsuspected gems. To be perfectly honest, the motive is not **entirely** altruistic, for we are keen buyers of virtually anything unusual in this field. So if as a result of what he reads here anyone 'strikes gold', and has no collecting interest in his find, he knows where to bring it to reap the profit!

As a general rule, all ordinary plate blocks have a value somewhat in excess of the combined value of the stamps making up the block. It follows, therefore, that a plate block of a basically expensive stamp will be worth a considerable sum on that account alone. This type is not really our concern here, **except in those cases where the basic stamp may not itself be widely recognised for its true worth.**

Apart from these relatively few exceptions, the main categories to be covered in these notes are:

- (i) those with markings which do not conform with the general conception of a "plate number"

- (ii) conventional plate blocks of common or relatively common stamps, but with plate identifications which make them for one reason or another scarcer than normal

The first N.Z. sheets to carry plate numbers were those of the Q.V. 1d — 1/- First Sidefaces (note that the 2/- and 5/- had no such markings). Although catalogue prices for individual stamps of the different denominations vary widely, plate blocks of all are so extremely scarce that there is little if any difference on their worth — all are very valuable! (In fact, blocks of 4 or more, of any kind, and of any value, are scarce in this issue, and command very considerable premiums). Incidentally, there is an interesting point about the First Sideface plate markings. Those generally considered to be the plate numbers appear as coloured numbers (from 1 to 6, though not in sequence of denominations) in an ornamental rectangle in the top left and bottom right selvages. These numbers distinguished the plates of the different values. Other markings (in all cases an uncoloured figure 1 in a coloured circle) appeared in the top right and bottom left selvages. These were intended to be serial numbers of plates made for each individual value, but since in the event no new plates were ever required, none of these "sequence numberings" ever got off the ground, and as far as I'm aware there has been no other instance since of this dual system. Nevertheless, the circular markings have equally strong claims to be considered plate numbers.

No plate numbers at all appeared in the Second Sidefaces, nor the London Print Pictorials so next month we move on to the interesting period immediately after the turn of the century.

SELECTED ITEMS

- | | | |
|---------|--|---------|
| 1001 | 1906 Hausburg Reprints. Complete sheet of 240 from the Full-Face Queen 2d Plate 2, printed in black, on thin card, imperf. Tiny internal surface abrasion affecting the corners of four adjacent impressions (fortunately well clear of the damaged areas of the plate), otherwise in superb condition. A marvellous reference/study/display item. The proof sheet | £125.00 |
| 1002 | The Postage Stamps of New Zealand, Vol 2. Brilliant copy, in as new condition, and complete with the special die-prints in colour | £85.00 |
| 1003 | 1d Second Sideface. Right marginal block of 4, perf. 11, with complete double perfs vertically (D2pY). Additionally, one stamp has a very prominent flaw on the Queen's neck. Some gum adhesions (but no thins), otherwise fine, and of outstanding appearance | £37.50 |
| 1004(a) | 2d Second Sideface. The scarce original Die 1 issue (D3a) in superfine mint block of 4. Bright lilac shade | £75.00 |
| (b) | As above. Superb mint single in the same shade | £18.00 |
| (c) | As above. Another block of 4 in deep dull lilac. A little reinforcement of perfs. otherwise magnificent | £70.00 |
| 1005 | Edward VII Officials. Short set of 3 — but most unusually, short in this case of the lower values. Thus the set comprises 6d, 8d and 1/-, and even more unusually, all three are superb unmounted mint | £115.00 |
| 1006 | K.G.V 1½d Recess. Plate block of 4 on Cowan paper (K1a), with full corner selvedge, and plate no. 14, of course. Unhinged, and immaculate | £85.00 |

1007	K.G.V. 8d Official (K010d). A really superb used example. Very rarely seen in this quality, and certainly much more difficult than mint	£125.00
1008	K.G.V. 9d Official (K011a). A really superb used example. Very rarely seen in this quality, and certainly much more difficult than mint (No, you're not seeing double – the comments above apply equally here too)	£37.50
1009	2/- Capt. Cook. Unmounted mint copy from plate 2 with variety Double Print, One Albino (L13gY). Characteristic blurring is very marked, and evidence of original (albino) impression 7mm low and 2mm left. Design is centred right, but since only one sheet is recorded, all examples will be similar	£57.50
1010(a)	Q.E. 3d (N5a). Guaranteed reference copy from Die 1b (now listed as shade 4 in our Catalogue). Supplied with a Die 1a copy for comparison. Unmounted	£1.50
	(b) As above. Inverted watermarks from booklets are common; from large sheets, on the other hand, they are rare. We can offer a vertical pair with bottom selvage (thus proving it to be the rarity) at, unmounted mint	£42.50
1011	1960 Pictorial 3/- Multicolour. Corner block of 4 with sheet value marking and including on R1/6, the prominent sky retouch (OV18b). Offered in either of the listed shades of brown-bistre or yellow-bistre (your choice). The block, superfine mint	£11.50
1012	1967 Pictorial \$ 2 Magenta (0D18a). A perfect imprint/plate block of 10. Cat. \$ 600, one only available at	£185.00
1013	1977 Postafix Provisionals. The 7c/3c and 8c/4c, each in strip of 4 with central butt join (these provisionals were made up from ordinary sheets, thus the joins occur at 20-stamp intervals throughout the rolls). The two strips	£1.75
1014(a)	1961 Christmas. Unmounted marginal block of 4 with the attractive "straight rainbow" variety at the foot of each design (caused by an upward shift of the yellow). A nice one!	£15.00
	(b) As above. Mint single showing the same variety	£4.00
1015	1956 Health 1½d. Mint blocks of 4 in the listed shades of purple-sepia and deep sepia. Brilliant contrasts that even the colour-blind could see!	£5.00
1016	5/- Arms Type Official. The scarce one with vertical overprint (Z033a). A superb, lightly hinged, well-centred example	£225.00

Q.E. OFFICIALS

1017(a)	1d Orange. Coarse paper (N021a). Mint 15p; used	5p
(b)	As above. Mint block of 4	60p
(c)	As above. Thick white paper (N021b). Mint 20p; used	15p
(d)	As above. Mint block of 4	80p
1018(a)	1½d lake-brown. (N022a). Issued on coarse paper only. Mint	£1.00
(b)	As above. Mint block of 4	£4.00

1019(a) 2d Myrtle-green. Coarse paper (N023a). Mint 35p; used	5p
(b) As above. Mint block of 4	£1.40
(c) As above. Thick white paper (N023b). Mint 35p; used	15p
1020(a) 3d Vermillion. Coarse paper (N024a). Mint 25p; used	5p
(b) As above. Mint block of 4	£1.00
(c) As above. Thick white paper (N024b). Mint 25p; used	8p
(d) As above. Mint block of 4	£1.00
1021(a) 4d Blue. Coarse paper (N025a). Mint 30p; used	5p
(b) As above. Mint block of 4	£1.20
(c) As above. Thick white paper (N025b). Mint 85p; used	50p
(d) As above. Mint block of 4	£3.40
1022(a) 9d Rose Carmine (N026a). Issued on coarse paper only. Mint 75p; used ...	35p
(b) As above. Mint block of 4	£3.00
(c) As above. Imprint/plate block of 4 (Pl. no. 7)	£8.50
1023(a) 1/- Purple. Coarse paper (N027a). Mint £1.50; used	20p
(b) As above. Imprint/plate block of 4 (Pl. no. 6)	£7.00
(c) As above. Thick white paper (N027b). Mint £2.50; used	60p
(d) As above. Mint block of 4	£10.00
1024(a) 6d on 1½d Lake-brown. (N028a). Issued on coarse paper only. Mint 50p; used	£1.50
(b) As above. Mint block of 4	£2.00
1025(a) 2½d on 2d Myrtle-green. (N029a). Issued on thick white paper only. Mint 35p; used	60p
(b) As above. Mint block of 4	£1.40
1026(a) 2½d Olive-green. (N035a). Issued on thick white paper only. Mint 40p; used	60p
(b) As above. Mint block of 4	£1.60
(c) As above. Imprint/plate block of 4	£5.25
1027(a) 3/- Grey. (N039a). Issued on thick white paper only. Mint unhinged	£30.00
(b) As above. Lightly hinged copy	£17.50
(c) As above. Unhinged imprint/plate block of 4 (Pl. no. 10)	£127.50

O.E. BOOKLET PANES

All items offered are mint panes of six stamps complete with binding selvage.

Small figures of value

1028(a) 1d Pane, upright wmk. (W7aZ)	£1.25
(b) 1d Pane, inverted wmk. (W7aY)	£3.00
(c) 3d Pane, upright wmk. (W7aX)	£1.50
(d) 3d Pane, inverted wmk. (W7aW)	£3.25

Large figures of value, original paper

1029(a) 1d Pane, upright wmk. (W7cZ)	£6.50
(b) 3d Pane, upright wmk. (W7bZ)	£5.00
(c) 3d Pane, inverted wmk. ((W7bY)	£5.00

Large figures of value, thick white paper

1030(a) 1d Pane, upright wmk. (W7dZ)	£3.00
(b) 1d Pane, inverted wmk. (W7dY)	£3.50
(c) 3d Pane, upright wmk. (W7dX)	£3.00

KING GEORGE VI, CONTINUED

As usual full annotation provided where necessary

1031(a) 1/3d Sideways Wmk, Frame Die 1b (M14b). Plate block of 4, pl. no. 3A-2 ..	£5.00
(b) As above. Single stamp with watermark inverted (M14bZ). Unmounted mint	£10.00
(c) As above. Mint pair, also watermark inverted, one stamp with R13/5 retouch (MFV14b(b)). Unusual	£15.00
(d) As above. Marginal unmounted block of 4, including R16/6 frame retouch (MFV14b(a))	£10.00
1032(a) 1/3d Upright Wmk (M14c). Plate 4-2 block of 4	£10.00
(b) As above. Two plate 4-2 blocks of 4, the frames in strikingly different shades of pale blue and bright blue	£20.00
(c) As above. Marginal block of 4, unmounted, including the R6/1 graver slip ...	£10.00
(d) As above. Marginal block of 4, including R16/6 frame variety. Unmounted mint	£10.00
(e) As above. Corner block of 4 from the rare 3A-2 plate combination, including R16/9 re-entry (MCV14c(b)). A superb and extremely rare proving piece. Unmounted mint	£100.00
1033(a) 2/- Upright Wmk (M15a). Plate block of 4 (1-1) including R15/2 frame flaw, and R15/1, 16/1, 16/2 centre flaws. A scarce plate block.	£15.00
(b) As above. Corner block of 4, stamps unmounted, including R1/1, 2/1, 2/2 centre varieties — all mentioned in Vol. 4	£10.00
(c) As above. Bottom marginal pair, including R16/6 frame re-entry	£6.00
(d) As above. Corner block of 4, including R15/10 frame flaw and 16/10 with three centre flaws. Superb	£12.50
1034(a) 2/- Sideways Wmk (M15b). Set of three plate blocks, all with R15/2 frame retouch, showing states of R15/1, 16/1, 16/2 centre varieties	£17.50
(b) As above. Plate block of 4, with R16/1, 16/2 flaws, or 16/1, 16/2 re-entries. Each block	£6.00
(c) As above. Unmounted mint copy with inverted watermark (M15bz). Cat. \$ 20	£6.00

(d) As above. Corner block of 4, stamps unhinged, including R1/1, 2/1, 2/2 centre plate varieties	£8.00
(e) As above. Top marginal block of 6, including R3/7 flaw. Unmounted mint, but a few split perfs (in selvage only)	£10.00
(f) As above. Unhinged marginal block of 6, including R6/2 variety	£10.00
(g) As above. Two mint singles, both from R6/6, with 'one' flaw and 'four' flaws respectively	£7.50
(h) As above. Marginal block of 6, with R9/9 and 11/9 (MCV15b(b)) centre plate re-entries. Previously hinged, but superb appearance	£5.00
(i) As above. Three brilliant blocks of 4, showing (a) R10/6 and 11/5 centre flaws; (b) R10/6 and 11/5 re-entred; (c) R11/5 with new flaws (MCV15b(a)). A lovely set	£25.00
(j) As above. A series of marginal blocks of 6 stamps, showing states of the R12/3 and 13/1 varieties:	
(i) R12/3 and 13/1 in pre flaw state. Previous hinge mark and some re-inforced perfs	£10.00
(ii) R12/3 normal, R13/1 one flaw (MFV15b(b)). Condition similar to (i)	£10.00
(iii) R12/3 normal, R13/1 two flaws (MFV15b(c)). Previous hinge mark	£12.50
(iv) R12/3 flaw, R13/1 two flaws (MFV15b(d)). Fine condition	£15.00
(v) R12/3 and 13/1 retouched (MFV15b(e)). Fine condition	£15.00
(k) As above. Corner block of 4, with R15/10 frame flaw, and 16/10 centre retouch. Stamps unmounted	£10.00
1035(a) 3/- Red-Brown and Grey. (M16a). Plate block of 4, nos. 2 - 1	£10.00
(b) As above. Plate block of 12 (4x3) including R14/4 and 15/4 re-entries, 15/4 with vertical line to right of head (MFV16a(f)), and 14/3 with two flaws. Superb unmounted mint	£27.50
(c) As above. Two corner blocks of 6 (all stamps unhinged), including the R3/2 frame flaw and subsequent re-entry. Lovely material	£30.00
(d) As above. Marginal single showing R5/1 centre "three flaws", and marginal block of 4 including R5/1 centre re-entry. Unhinged mint	£20.00
(e) As above. Two unmounted singles, being R7/7 "two centre flaws", and retouch	£7.50
(f) As above. Three matching marginal pairs, completely unmounted mint, showing (1) R8/10 centre flaw; (2) R8/10 centre re-entry; and (3) the late R7/10 and 8/10 frame flaws (also shows of course, the R8/10 centre re-entry). Superb variety set	£20.00
(g) As above. Marginal block of 8 (unhinged mint), including R8/3 and 8/4 centre flaws	£20.00

- (h) **As above.** Mint block of 4, including the late R8/4 frame retouch £15.00
- (i) **As above.** Two blocks of 6 (5 stamps in each unmounted) both of which include R9/3 centre flaw. One block also includes R9/5 centre flaw and R10/5 frame flaw, whilst the other shows these two impressions without flaws £30.00
- (j) **As above.** Two marginal blocks of 4, showing (1) R12/10 clear and R13/10 centre flaw; and (2) R12/10 centre re-entry and flaw, and R13/10 centre re-entry £25.00
- (k) **As above.** A brilliant set of four blocks of 6, showing (a) R14/3 no flaws, R15/4 'no scratch'; (b) R14/3 one frame flaw, R15/4 strong vertical frame scratch; (c) R14/3 two frame flaws, R15/4 faint vertical frame scratch and early signs of plate crack; and (d) exactly as 'c' but advanced plate cracking between R15/4-5. A supreme variety set of blocks £50.00

And, as a complete contrast to variety offers, a "straight" listing of George VI single stamps per C.P.

C.P.	S.G.	U.M.M.	M.M.	U.	C.P.	S.G.	U.M.M.	M.M.	U.
M1a	603	75p	40p	10p	M14b	—	—	—	25p
M1b	604	10p	5p	4p	M14c	687a	£2.00	£1.25	£2.00
M1c	—	12p	—	8p	M15a	688a	£2.50	£1.25	—
M1d	—	10p	—	5p	M15b	688	£2.50	£1.00	40p
M2a	605	—	40p	5p	M16a	689	£3.00	£1.50	75p
M2b	—	£2.50	—	75p	M17a	700	5p	3p	3p
M2c	—	8p	4p	4p	M18a	713	7p	3p	3p
M2d	606	8p	4p	4p	M19a	712	7p	—	5p
M2e	—	£4.50	£3.00	£1.00	Officials				
M3a	628	12p	8p	5p	M01a	0134	£1.80	—	75p
M4a	607	£6.00	£3.50	£1.25	M01b	0135	50p	—	50p
M4b	—	30p	20p	20p	M01d	—	75p	—	—
M4c	608	8p	5p	4p	M02a	0136	£1.50	—	20p
M5a	629	12p	—	4p	M02c	—	15p	—	5p
M6a	680	8p	5p	4p	M02d	0137	12p	—	5p
M6b	—	30p	15p	15p	M02e	—	—	—	£6.00
M7a	—	£2.40	£1.25	50p	M04a	0138	—	—	£7.50
M7b	—	£2.75	£1.50	40p	M04c	0139	90p	—	18p
M7c	609	15p	8p	4p	M06a	0152	15p	—	4p
M8a	681	25p	15p	7p	M06b	—	60p	—	40p
M8b	—	£1.00	60p	25p	M07a	—	£2.10	—	75p
M9a	682	£1.25	65p	60p	M07c	0140	20p	—	4p
M9b	—	£7.20	£3.75	90p	M08a	0153	£1.50	—	40p
M10a	683	50p	30p	8p	M08b	—	£2.10	—	£1.25
M10b	—	£6.00	£3.50	50p	M010a	0154	£3.60	£2.00	50p
M11a	684	65p	35p	8p	M010b	—	£3.60	—	50p
M11b	—	£4.50	£2.50	50p	M011a	0155	£8.00	—	£2.40
M12a	685	£1.25	75p	15p	M012a	0156	£10.00	—	£3.00
M12b	—	£4.50	£2.50	90p	M013a	0157	£7.50	—	£1.00
M13a	686a	75p	45p	25p	M013b	0157a	£7.50	—	£2.00
M13b	686	75p	45p	10p	M013c	0157b	—	—	£7.50
M13c	686b	75p	45p	10p	M015b	0158	£6.00	—	£3.75
M14a	687	£1.15	60p	18p					

POSTAL STATIONERY, CONTINUED

Reply Postcards

1038(a)	1886 Q.V. 1d + 1d Red-Brown. (U.1). Unsevered cards. Brilliant	£30.00
(b)	As above. Sender's portion only.	£7.00
(c)	As above. Reply portion only. Fine	£7.00
1039(a)	1901 Q.V. 1d + 1d Brown. (U.2). Unsevered. Brilliant	£35.00
(b)	As above. Another unsevered example, with variety No Accent Over First e of Zealand on lower card. Superb	£35.00

Printed Matter Cards

1040	1955 Q.E. 1½d Chocolate. (V.2). Fine	£7.50
1041(a)	1957 Q.E. 2d on 1½d Provisional. Printed in chocolate, surcharge in black (V.3). Superb	£10.00
(b)	As above, but design printed in red-brown (V.3a). Superb	£10.00

Department of Education Postcards

1042(a)	1962 Q.E. 2½d Green. Stamp overprinted Official in black. On cream card (X.19a). Superb	£12.50
(b)	As above. Used example. Two pinholes (due to stapling), otherwise superb	£2.50

Lettercards

1043(a)	1958 Q.E. 3d Carmine. "Save for a home . . ." advert. on back (F.3(b)). superb	£3.50
(b)	As above, but "street number? . . ." advert. on back (F.3(c)). Superb.....	£3.50
1044	1969? Q.E. 3c Light Blue. On pale blue card (F.11c). "LETTER CARD" 64mm long. Superb	£2.00
1045	1971 Q.E. 4c Red. With perforated border (F.14). This was the last letter card to be perforated — all subsequent issues were rouletted. Superb	£2.00
1046	1976 Q.E. 4c + 4c Provisional. Rouletted 4c card, with "Additional 4c/ Postage Paid" in black below stamp (F.16). Superb	£4.50
1047	1976 Q.E. 8c Claret. Stamp design as before (F.17). Superb	£1.50
1048	Q.E. 8c Claret. Card as above, but with new stamp design. Superb	£1.00
1049	Q.E. 8c + 2c Provisional. Card as last item, but with "Additional 2c/Postage Paid" in black below stamp. Superb	£4.50

To be concluded.