

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN

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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

by Colin Hamilton

Plate Blocks to Watch For (continued). The last in this series of notes brought us up to 1906 or thereabouts. Before proceeding to the Perkins, Bacon era, I must refer back to the Royle and Waterlow 1d Universal Trial Plate numbers for a moment. As I said previously, these numbers — R1, R2, W1 and W2 — are very prominent, readily recognisable, and therefore pretty well known. However, an extra-careful lookout should be kept for any of these markings on the issues over-printed Official. Just two examples (one each of R1 and W1) are known to us — both, incidentally, are quite recent discoveries.

In 1907, Perkins, Bacon began to produce a long series of plates (44 in all), commencing with those for the redrawn First Pictorials and running through to the end of the King George V 'Heads'. Each of these plates was allocated a number (not surprisingly from 1 to 44), but only those issues printed by the recess method carried the plate number on issued sheets. Surface-printed sheets were without any plate number (e.g. 1d Dominions, the George V surface prints, and the various Perkins, Bacon booklet plates of the period). Thus it would be impossible to acquire an unbroken run of these numbers. A complete collection would in fact consist of nos. 1 — 8, 14 — 27, 37 — 39, and 41 — 44. (No. 40 was a recess-printing plate — made for the George V 8d — but it was never used). Plate blocks of all these are very desirable property, but generally speaking they do not come within the terms of reference of these notes. However there are several real gems which certainly do: Pl. no. 8 (1/- Keas) in **orange-brown**; nos. 37 and 38 (6d K.G.V.) in **carmine-lake**; no. 41 (1/- K.G.V.) in **orange-brown**; and no. 44 (4d K.G.V.) with **stamps perf. 14x13½**.

Within the same period, the Edward VII Heads are of vast and largely untapped potential. The plates as supplied by Messrs. Royle had no identification marks, but "numbers" were added in New Zealand, and these appeared in the form of coloured dots in the bottom selvage of the sheets, usually below vertical columns 6 and 7, but in one exceptional case (the 3d plate 3) below columns 7 and 8. Find any of these plate blocks, and you can be sure you have something good, worth far more than the sum of the stamps making up the block.

1967 Pictorials — New Find. Already this series boasts one inverted watermark variety (on the 28c) which, although discovered and reported a number of years ago, has remained "only one copy known". Is the redesigned 10c (OD22a, S.G. 873) destined to make it a double? I recently found a single used copy of this stamp with sideways inverted watermark (W8b) — a variety never previously noted. Check yours, mint and used (and when doing so, don't forget counter coil pairs!)

"Exhibition/Christchurch" datestamp. Following my note in the December Bulletin, Mr. S. Painter of Somerset has shown me an example in state 3 dated 5th Feb. 1907. Although an advance of only one day on the earliest date I reported, it is more significant than it might seem, for it reduces to only four days the period during which the final damage to the 'C' could have occurred.

PENNY UNIVERSALS

Our acquisition of a major collection provides a bonanza of material, for both the beginner and the confirmed specialist. Commencing with two quite superb offers for the newcomer. Each forms a perfect introduction to this universally popular issue (if you'll pardon the expression).

201 Mint Reference Set. Yes, mint — something we're able to offer perhaps once in a decade. A set of 11 stamps, covering all the major issues G1 — G11 listed in our Catalogue, as follows:

1. London Print (G1a)
2. First Local Plates — Print on Pirie Paper (G2a)
3. Do. — Print on Basted Mills Paper (G3c)
4. Do. — Print on Cowan Unwatermarked Paper (G4a)
5. Do. — Print on Cowan Watermarked Paper (G5a)
6. Reserve Plate (G6a)
7. Booklet Plate (G7a)
8. 'Dot' Plates (G8a)
9. Waterlow Trial Plates (G9a)
10. Royle Plates (G10a)
11. Surface Plate (G11a)

All stamps in finest condition and supplied in individual packets numbered 1 — 11 as above. The mint 1d Universals reference set

£97.50

202 Used Reference Set. A more comprehensive set than the mint above, comprised of 23 stamps:

1. London Print (G1a)
- 2 — 4. First Local Plates — Print on Pirie Paper, Perf. 11 Three super shades (G2a x 3)
5. First Local Plates — Print on Pirie Paper, Perf. 14 (G2b)
6. First Local Plates — Print on Basted Mills Paper, Perf. 14 (G3b)
7. First Local Plates — Print on Basted Mills Paper, Perf. 11x14 (G3c)
8. First Local Plates — Print on Cowan Unwatermarked Paper, Perf. 14 (G4a)
- 9 — 11. First Local Plates — Print on Cowan Watermarked Paper, Perf. 14. Three copies showing progressive plate wear (G5a x 3)
12. Reserve Plate, Perf. 14 (G6a)
13. Booklet Plate (G7a)
- 14 — 16. Dot plates, Perf. 14. Three copies, showing progressive plate wear (G8a x 3)

- 17 – 18. Waterlow Trial Plates, Perf. 14. Two copies, from Plates W1 and W2 respectively (G9a x 2)
 19 – 21. Royle Plates, Perf. 14. Three brilliant shades (G10a x 3)
 22. Royle Plates, Perf. 14x14½ (G10f)
 23. Surface Print (G11a)

The used reference set — for ease of identification stamps are numbered 1 – 23 in pencil on the backs, to correspond with the above descriptions £30.00

Additional Items. To make the used reference set even more comprehensive, the following are available separately to purchasers of lot 202 only.

- 203(a) Mixed Perfs. A typical example (G8d) £8.00
 (b) Re-entry. Again, a typical example, with clear doubling £5.00

- 204(a) London Print (G1a). Finest mint copy £7.25
 (b) As above. Superb mint block of 4 £35.00
 (c) As above. Another superfine mint block of 4, one stamp showing major re-entry (fully identified) £42.50
 (d) As above. Single stamp with major re-entry R10/1 or 10/12, each £12.00
 (e) As above. An unusual and exceptionally fine page of used "London's". 29 stamps, including seven pairs and a block of 4, three re-entries noted £72.50

- 205(a) Local Prints, 'Pirie' Paper, Perf. 11. (G2a). Finest mint copy, well-centred (scarce thus) £4.75
 (b) As above, but average centring. Mint £1.50
 (c) As above. Mint pair, both stamps showing major re-entries (Plate 1, R10/8 and 10/9) £12.00
 (d) As above. Mint horizontal pair of the major variety Imperf. Vertically (G2aX). Fine, and very scarce £195.00

- (e) As above. Set of four lovely blocks of 4 showing a brilliant blaze of shades, including carmine-lake and deep carmine-lake. Fabulous! £145.00

- (f) As above. Page of 29 used in a wide range of shades including carmine-lakes. Three excellent re-entries are noted and identified, and multiples include two strips of 3, a strip of 4 and a block of 4. One or two small faults, but generally condition is fine to superb. A most attractive lot £47.50

- 206 Local Prints, 'Pirie' Paper, Perf. 14 (G2b).** A very pleasing stamp, with its fine printing and small neat perforations, rivalled only by the 'Londons' and the comb perf. Royles. Distinctly scarce and definitely underrated, too, yet unusually well-represented in this collection. We can offer:
- (a) Mint copy in a very deep carmine £18.00
 - (b) Glorious block of 4, fine and **perfectly centred** £100.00
 - (c) Another block, fractionally less well-centred, but in all other respects the equal of the previous block £80.00
 - (d) Three superb shades as listed in our Catalogue, including carmine-lake, all finest used. If we have ever before offered such a set, it must have been many many moons ago £27.50
- 207(a) Local Prints, 'Pirie' Paper, Mixed Perfs. (G2e).** Excellent mint copy of this rarity, originally perf. 14 all round, re-perfed 11 horizontally. Complete with official patching on back (S.G. cat. £250) £195.00
- (b) **As above.** Fine dated used example of the same variety. Unusually for a used copy, this one too still has the official patching £77.50
- Local Prints, Basted Mills Paper, Perf. 11 (G3a).** Sorry, the few copies we had have all gone to collectors whose names were on our waiting lists.
- 208(a) Local Prints, Basted Mills Paper, Perf. 14 (G3b).** Single, finest mint £13.50
- (b) **As above.** Mint block of 4, centred left but beautifully crisp and fresh £57.50
 - (c) **As above.** Not one, not two, but **three** striking shades, finest used £5.00
- 209(a) Local Prints, Basted Mills Paper, Perf. 11x14 (G3c).** Mint copy, **good centring** (scarce thus), and fine £16.50
- (b) **As above.** Example of typical centring (which is pretty dreadful). Mint £1.75
 - (c) **As above.** Fine mint block of 4, pale shade £52.50
 - (d) **As above.** Another mint block, equally fine, in a deep rich shade £52.50
 - (e) **As above.** Strip of 4, pair and single, all in markedly differing shades, and all fine to very fine used £10.50
- 210(a) Local Prints, Basted Mills Paper, Perf. 14x11 (G3d).** Scarcer than 11x14. Fine mint copy £18.00
- (b) **As above.** Block of 4, very pale shade. Very fine mint £82.50
 - (c) **As above.** Similar block, deeper shade £75.00
 - (d) **As above.** Superfine used copy £3.75

211(a)	Local Prints, Basted Mills Paper, Mixed Perfs. (G3e). Superb top marginal example, perf. 14x11 and re-perfed 11 horizontally. With official patching	£82.50
(b)	As above. The same variety, but in superfine mint block of 4	£350.00
(c)	As above. Mint pair, perf. 11x14, re-perfed 11 vertically (vertical mixed perfs. are invariably much scarcer than horizontal)	£125.00
(d)	As above. Good used copy with mixed perfs. horizontally	£37.50
(e)	As above. Fine used, mixed perfs. vertically	£52.50
212(a)	Cowan Unwmk'd Paper, Perf. 14 (G4a). Mint copy, fine	£6.50
(b)	As above. Block of 4, mint and fine	£32.50
(c)	As above. Two superb shades, fine used	£1.50
213(a)	Cowan Unwmk'd Paper, Perf. 14x11 (G4c). Finest mint. Very scarce	£100.00
(b)	As above. Glorious mint block of 4, bright rich shade	£395.00
(c)	As above. Another mint block, not quite so fine (some light toning)	£100.00
214(a)	Cowan Unwmk'd Paper, Mixed Perfs. (G4d). Brilliant mint, perf. 14 all round, re-perfed 11 horizontally, with official patching. Rare!	£140.00
(b)	As above, but with mixed perfs. vertically. Fair mint only, hence	£37.50
(c)	As above. Fine dated used copy, mixed perfs. horizontally	£110.00

(To be continued next month)

LIFE INSURANCE DEPT – PRE-1947

The pickings from a comprehensive collection along the lines of S.G. listings, mainly in complete sets, and offered thus. Much elusive and seldom offered material here.

215(a)	1891-98 'VR', Perf. 12x11½. Set of 8, ½d – 1/-, including both 1d's and both 2d's (S.G. L1-L6). Fine to superb used, all c.d.s. (C.P. Cat. \$725, S.G. £362)	£185.00
(b)	As above. Similar set of 8, again all with c.d.s. cancels, and attractive appearance, but general condition not so fine as in the set above	£60.00
216	1891-98 'VR' Perf. 10. Set of 3 (½d, 1d, 2d) complete. Very fine used (C.P. Cat. \$15, S.G. £8.75)	£7.50
217	1891-98 'VR', Perf. 10 and 11 Compound. ½d 11x10 and 1d 10x11 (S.G. L9a, L11), fine used. C.P. Cat. \$40, (S.G. list the ½d at £20, and do not price the 1d)	£17.50

218	1891-98 'VR', Perf. 11, Wmk. Upright. No 2d chocolate shade (S.G. L15b), but otherwise complete L13 – L15b. The set of 6 stamps, finest used (C.P. Cat. \$16, S.G. £11.80)	£7.50
219	1902-04 'VR' Perf. 11, Wmk. Sideways. Set of 3, ½d – 2d, complete (S.G. L16 – L18). Finest used. C.P. Cat. \$7.50, S.G. £4.40	£3.50
220	1902-04 'VR', Perf. 14x11, Wmk. Sideways. "Impossible" ½d absent, but 1d (L20) available superfine used at	£7.50

221	1905-06 'No VR', Wmk. Sideways. 2d perf. 11, 1d perf. 14, 1d perf. 14x11 (S.G. L21 – L23). Set of 3, finest used and rare, rare, RARE! (When if ever did you last see such an offer?)	£275.00
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222(a)	1913-37, De la Rue Paper. Mint set of 8, ½d – 6d, no ½d or 1d shades, but with both colours of the 1½d and 2d (S.G. L24 – L31). Beautifully fresh and fine, if centring a little variable on two or three stamps. C.P. Cat. \$240, S.G. £94	£72.50
(b)	As above. Used set of 11, composition as above, but including two shades of the ½d, and three of the 1d. Condition fine to superb. C.P. Cat. \$120, S.G. £48+	£37.50
(c)	As above. Used copy of the 1d with prominent variety Retouched Sky (C.P. X8cZ)	£3.00
223(a)	1913-37, Cowan Paper, Perf. 14x15. ½d and 1d, set of two complete (S.G. L31a, b). Superfine mint. C.P. Cat. \$21, S.G. £12	£8.50
(b)	As above, but used	£2.50
224(a)	1913-37, Cowan Paper, Perf. 14. Mint set of 5, ½d – 6d (S.G. L32 – L36). Fine. C.P. Cat. \$108, S.G. £50+	£40.00
(b)	As above. Fine mint copy with variety Watermark Inverted (X8eY)	£10.00
(c)	As above. Set of 5 as lot 224a, but used. C.P. Cat. \$63, S.G. £31+	£25.00
225(a)	1913-37, Wiggins Teape Paper, Single Wmk. Finest mint set of 3 (S.G. L36a, b, c). C.P. Cat. \$26, S.G. £15+	£10.00
(b)	As above. Same set of 3, used	£8.00
226(a)	1944-47, Wiggins Teape Paper, Mult. Wmk. Mint set of 5, ½d – 6d (S.G. L37 – 41). Superfine. C.P. Cat. \$35, S.G. £20	£14.50
(b)	As above. Same set, used. C.P. Cat. \$59, S.G. £16+	£18.50

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1899 POSTAGE DUES

Complete used set of 14 of the First Types (C.P. Y1a – 14a, S.G. D1 – D16). Very scarce indeed, and rarely seen complete. Inevitably condition varies, but overall it is much above average for these difficult stamps. Extremely attractively and keenly priced at, the set

£275.00

\$4 – \$10 ARMS TYPES

A couple of unrepeatable offers – each gives two-for-the-price-of-one value for money.

228(a) Mint sets of both the original line perf. and later comb. perf. issues. Superb. Lightly hinged. The two sets of 4, combined price £45.00

(b) Used sets as above, in both perfs. All superb copies £37.50

230

1d FIELD MARSHAL

Top marginal copy with variety Imperf. at Top (K15aW). Superfine mint. Cat. \$100

£40.00

231

Q.E. 2½d on 3d PROVISIONAL

Se-tenant pair showing variety Wide and Narrow Settings of Surcharge. (C.P. N42aZ, S.G. 808b). Mint lightly hinged

£7.50

232

"The Postage Stamps of New Zealand". We have available a fine copy of Volume 1 of the peerless N.Z. Handbooks. The key volume of the set. Post paid

£277.50

RECENT ISSUES . . .

1c, 2c, 3c, 4c, 5c, 9c Mineral Definitives (Issued 1/12/82). The first instalment of a new definitive series, to be released gradually over the next few years. These new stamps, and the 24c Map stamp (released last year) were printed by Leigh Mardon of Melbourne Australia and complete sheets are to be found i) with the bottom selvage perforated through, and ii) with one perf. hole only in the bottom selvage.

Mint set of 6 (all perf. 14¼ x 14) 20p

First Day Cover (Wanganui pmk) 35p

One imprint/plate block each value (six stamps each block) £1.40

Complete set of 12 imprint/plate blocks (two each value). These are all perf. 14¼ x 14, except the 1c with bottom selvage perforated through, which is perf. 12¼ x 12½ (the same as the 24c Map) £2.75

Note: Food for thought – watch for all other values perf. 12¼ x 12½, and the 24c Map perf. 14¼ x 14 – none yet seen but all distinctly possible! (As we go to press, we hear that the 24c has been reported in the new perf.).

30c Shell. A third reprint, with three purple asterisks opposite R10/1. Imprint block of 6 £2.00

1982 Seasons. Until now reprint markings have been confined to definitive issues, but all values of this special issue have now appeared with one black asterisk opposite R10/1. Our offer is of a complete set of 4 reprinted imprint blocks £9.50

Postal Stationery

24c Lettercard. The last lettercard issue (20c) was vermilion on blue but this new issue reverts to magenta on blue (a combination last seen on the 14c) 30p

Special Cancels

15/12/82 ROTORUA NZ/OPENING OF NEW PHILATELIC SALES CENTRE 35p

Do. CHRISTCHURCH N.Z. 35p

These are on "Pictorial Date-Stamp Service" postcards of a completely new design. The 'stamp' is printed in bright blue, and the design (of the southern hemisphere) is green and blue. An improvement on the previous rather drab all-over brown.

.... AND RECENT VARIETIES

- A) 1982 Architecture.** Two 'panel' shades on each value. Set of 8 stamps (blocks of 4 pro rata) £2.50
- B) 1982 Seasons, 40c.** Imprint block of 6, original supply, including R9/2 "cloud in sky" variety £3.25
- C) Seasons Postcards.** Complete set of 4 full-colour cards £1.00
- D) 1982 Health.** Two miniature sheets on different papers — one is "fine and white", the other "coarse and toned". Quite distinctive £3.75
- E) As above.** Miniature Sheet with R2/2 variety (small bite out of 2 in 1982) £2.75
- F) As above.** 30c + 2c, two green shades (blocks of 4 pro rata) £1.50
- G) 1982 Christmas 18c.** Two brown shades £1.25
- H) As above.** Two 45c stamps, lovely blue contrasts £1.75
- I) 24c Map.** Three blue shades, superb contrasts (blocks of 4 pro rata) £1.75
- J) As above.** Two imprint/plate blocks, a) bottom selvedge perforated through, R10/2 extra island to right of North Island, and b) bottom selvedge not perforated, R10/2 white spot above e of new. The two blocks £3.00
- K) 45c Maori.** Two shades, the Maori having a yellow and brown face respectively (blocks of 4 pro rata) £2.00
- L) 60c Maori.** Two background shades, peach and pink (blocks of 4 pro rata) £2.00