

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN

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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

by Colin Hamilton

Exhibition/Christchurch Datestamp. My grateful thanks to the numerous correspondents who provided information about the various states and dates of this cancellation following my notes in the December 1982 Bulletin (q.v.). Particular thanks to Mr. Don White of Dunedin, who has examples which allow a complete revision of the earliest/latest dates as follows:

- State 1: latest 19/12/06
- State 2: earliest 20/12/06; latest 1/2/07
- State 3: earliest 2/2/07; latest 11/3/07
- State 4: earliest 14/3/07; latest 20/4/07

It will be noted that all gaps are now virtually closed, with the exception of just a couple of days between states 3 and 4.

Christchurch/Exhibition Datestamp. Not to be confused with the above-mentioned cancellation (examples of which are, relatively speaking, not uncommon) this datestamp — with CHRISTCHURCH at the top of the arc, and EXHIBITION at the bottom — was in use only for a maximum of ten days, during the period 22 - 31 October 1906, when the special post office was operative to serve construction personnel and officials prior to the public opening of the Exhibition on 1st November. It follows that it is **never** found cancelling the Exhibition stamps (none of which was available before 1st November). In fact, examples are extremely rare. I have never seen one "in the flesh", and I know of just two from previously published illustrations. It is possible that a few may lie in general collections (unrecognised as anything out of the ordinary) cancelling contemporary stamps, e.g. 1d Universals. Something to keep an eye open for.

That, however, is not the end of the story. At the time Volume 3 of "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand" was written, the existence of this datestamp was unknown. On page 146 of that Volume, under the heading "Conversions", Type 86 is a Christchurch c.d.s. with the bottom arc of the ring totally blank (the date in the illustrated example is **24JA07**). The accompanying text states: "When adhesive official stamps were issued in 1907, one of the datestamps at Christchurch with the inscription OFFICIAL PAID at the bottom was converted for general use by the erasure of the inscription". The full 'Official Paid' datestamp is itself illustrated (as Type 22) on page 465, with the date **23FE07**. Comparison of the two dates (in bold type above) makes it obvious that there is something wrong with the logic of Vol. 3's explanation of the conversion, since the altered version pre-dates the original!

This is where the rare Christchurch/Exhibition datestamp comes to the fore again. It was the original which provided conversion Type 86. Curiously, the anomaly is not corrected in any of the later volumes of the Handbooks, although the existence of the Christchurch/Exhibition datestamp is acknowledged and illustrated in Volume 6.

Plate Blocks to Watch For (continued). We now come to the 1935 Pictorials, and here the plums among the plate blocks tend to be those where the constituent stamps themselves have an enhanced value by virtue of a scarcer perforation. An obvious example is the (registered watermark) 1d perf. $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$. Any plate block of this one is good, but less well-known — I would go so far as to say totally unknown, other than to users of the C.P. Catalogue — is the fact that a plate block perforated from right to left, i.e. with the left selvedge perforated through, is an even better find. In either case the number must be B2, but make a mental note that this same number is also found in the first issue (perf. $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$), where it is considerably commoner, so be sure of your perfs! Another example is the 4d line perf. 14. Single stamps of this issue are not infrequently confused with the much commoner first issue with registered watermark, which is comb perf. 14. But this confusion should not occur with plate blocks. Apart from the differences in perforation and watermark, even more obvious is the plate number which, in the good one, must be either 3 or 2B, neither of which exist in the registered watermark issue. Again, however, note that both of these plate numbers are also found on the perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$ and $14 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$ issues, so some caution is essential. In the 3/-, the outstanding "sleeper" is of course the very small experimental printing with watermark inverted-and-reversed. Because it is not listed in general catalogues, the chance of a lucky strike is always present (we know of at least one block of 4 picked up as a normal in recent years by a collector with the necessary knowledge). Even a single stamp would be a nice find — a plate block (which is numbered 1, just like any other 3/- plate block) would make anyone's day!

There are, too, several less obvious instances of plate blocks which have a special scarcity value completely unsuspected by the overwhelming majority of dealers and collectors alike. The 5d plate 1, when on coarse paper (either perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$ or $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$); the 2/- plate 1, again when on coarse paper, but perf. $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ only; and among the officials, there are two outstanding but innocent-looking rarities — the 1d plate B1 and the 2d plate 1A. Find either of these last two, and you can be certain of your good fortune, for in neither case is there the complication of another, commoner issue.

MISCELLANY

- | | | |
|--|---|---------|
| 301 | First Sidefaces. Short simplified set to 1/- complete, fine used. The set of 6 (minimum Cat. \$201, S.G. £117). The offer of the month at | £50.00 |
| 302 | First Sideface 2/-. A very much better than average used copy — well-centred, good perfs., fine deep colour, and not-too-heavy bars cancel. Cat. \$850 (S.G. £375), must be attractive at | £175.00 |
| 303(a) | Second Sidefaces. Superfine used set of 15, basically complete on a simplified basis, but with additional copies of the 1d (2), 2d (2) and 6d showing all the different dies. An unusual set, in quality that is extremely difficult to find | £60.00 |
| (b) As above. A reference set of the 1d, 2d and 6d dies only. Eight stamps used, all identified | | £17.50 |

- 304(a) 1898 London Print Pictorials.** As fine a display of the three listed $\frac{1}{2}$ d shades as anyone could ever wish to see — the purple-brown in a quite superlative used block of 6 (with 1898 date), the purple-slate in a brilliant mint block of 4, and the scarcer blackish purple (an exceptionally good example this, better described as purplish black) also in superb mint block of 4. The three blocks, breathtaking contrasts £40.00
- (b) As above.** A delightful lot of 10 different, all superb used, with 1898 c.d.s. Values are $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 2d, $2\frac{1}{2}$ d WAKITIPU, $2\frac{1}{2}$ d WAKATIPU, 3d, 5d, 6d, 9d, 1/- . Acquire these, and with them you acquire the tantalisingly attractive task of trying to complete the set! £82.50
- 305(a) $\frac{1}{2}$ d Mt. Cook.** Beautiful mint block of 4 (barely hinged) on 'Pirie' paper in the distinctive pale yellow-green shade £17.50
- (b) As above.** Perf. 14 block (marginal) on Cowan watermarked paper (F4b) with a complete impression of the large retaining screw head in the selvage. A spectacular piece, superfine mint £10.00
- 306 Edward VII 1/-.** Perfect used copy (and we really do mean perfect) with the scarce variety Watermark Inverted (H8bZ) £52.50
- 307(a) 1d Dominion.** R3/1 Feather Flaw in mint pair with a normal stamp on De La Rue paper (J1a0) £6.50
- (b) As above.** The single great rarity among 1d Dominions is the Unsurfaced Paper variety, from the solitary sheet of Jones paper which had the chalk-surfacing missing from the right hand side. A maximum of about 100 copies could possibly exist. The example here offered is superb mint, and of course carries our unconditional guarantee. Supplied with a normal surfaced 'Jones' for comparison — and what a contrast they are! £250.00
- (c) As above.** Glorious mint marginal block of 4 of the scarce issue on De La Rue unsurfaced paper (J3a). Again identification absolutely guaranteed £75.00
- (d) As above.** Vertical strip of 3 on De La Rue paper with wmk sideways, top stamp having the wmk sideways inverted, middle stamp complete letter wmk and bottom stamp no watermark. Three listed varieties in the one strip (J4aY, X and Z) — delightful! £19.50
- (e) As above.** Imperf. pair on surfaced paper with sideways wmk. Gibbons catalogue lists this as S.G. 526b (and pieces occasionally come on the market at fanciful prices), but as far as we are aware no imperf. variety of J4a was ever issued. These must therefore be considered to be plate proofs. The pair £15.00
- (f) As above.** Bottom marginal block of 4, Wiggins Teape paper (J8a). Fine mint, and scarce £60.00
- (g) As above.** Finest mint copy, again Wiggins Teape paper, with variety Watermark Inverted (J8aZ) £30.00

- 308(a) 1d Dominion/K.G.V. Booklets.** A marvellously unusual group of 13 used items (4 pairs, 9 singles), all with relevant selvages complete, and no duplication. Well worth the entire price for the rare "Cameron Bros" advert (included in the lot) alone! £57.50
- (b) As above.** A very fine used copy of the 1d Field Marshal, perf. 14, with corner selvedge (coloured bar, no adverts), showing the major re-entry found on stamp no. 5 of the top right pane from the booklet plate. Demonstrable re-entries are rare in surface-printing plates — this is the only one recorded in the 1d Field Marshal £47.50
- (c) As above.** The same major variety, but in fine used horizontal pair, perf. 14x15, with full selvages (bars and 'Parisian' adverts) £57.50
- 309 K.G.V. 4d Yellow.** Two-perf. vertical pair, upper stamp being the outstanding R4/10 re-entry, C.P. KV5c(a). Superfine mint; very lightly hinged, and fresh as the day it was issued. Cat. \$ 125 £52.50

- 310(a) K.G.V. ½d Green.** A beautiful mint block of 8 of the scarce experimental paper issue (K13b), with full corner selvedge and sheet number 8455 in red. This confirms the identification immediately and beyond any doubt, for no other ½d sheets were numbered in red. A superb and rare proving block, the like of which one would be very lucky to see once in a decade £195.00

- (b) As above.** Vertical pair, Cowan paper, perf. 14, upper stamp with complete double comb perfs. at sides and bottom (K13fX). Hinged, but very fine mint £47.50
- 311 1d Field Marshal.** The 1927 printings on Cowan paper surfaced on the wrong side (and therefore with reversed watermark) were made in a range of brilliant colours, most of which were markedly different from those of 'normal' 1d's. We can offer the following, all mint and fine:
- (a) Deep bright rose-carmine (K15c(2))** £19.50
- (b) Scarlet (K15c(3)).** A delightfully different shade £15.00
- (c) Bright claret (K15c(5)).** Another quite stunning colour £15.00
- 312(a) K.G.V. 1½d Orange-Brown.** Set of 4, representing all the issues of this stamp (De la Rue, Cowan perf. 14, Cowan perf. 14x15, Wiggins Teape). The last two are very scarce items indeed. All hinged, but very fine. The set of 1½d's, Cat. \$ 188 (S.G. £90.50), superb buying at £45.00
- (b) As above.** For the collector requiring unhinged, we can offer perfect copies of the two rarities:
- (i) Cowan perf. 14x15 (K17d)** £57.50
- (ii) Wiggins Teape (K17e)** £42.50
- 313(a) K.G.V. 2d Yellow, Wiggins Teape Paper, Perf. 14x15.** Superb mint marginal block of 4 in yellow on the distinctive thicker paper (K18gZ) £30.00
- (b) As above.** Another marginal block, but in orange-yellow, and with variety Watermark Inverted (K18gY). All stamps perfect unhinged £55.00

- 314(a) Second Pictorial 9d.** The reduced design issue with registered ('single') watermark (L11d) is one of the most elusive stamps in the entire series. The vast majority of those we see identified as such turn out to be the common multiple watermark version (L11e). Here is your chance to acquire the good one, with our unqualified guarantee. Perfect unmounted copy. (You may well see it on offer more cheaply elsewhere, but the chances are it ain't what it's said to be, in which case it's an expensive pig-in-a-poke, whatever the asking price!) £50.00
- OR (b)** If you want to be absolutely sure in your own mind, we can supply a marginal copy, also perfect unhinged, at £65.00
- 315 K.G.VI. 2/3d Booklet.** Complete unexploded example in absolutely immaculate condition. Includes three panes of the 1½d chocolate plus leaves with advertising and postage rates (W6c). Scarce, and very seldom seen in this superb quality £150.00
- 316 K.G.VI. 2/-.** Mint unhinged block of 4 with variety watermark sideways inverted (M15bZ). Normal stamps now Cat. \$30 each, so a chance not to be missed at, the block £27.50
- 317(a) Q.E. Plate Blocks.** ½d – 8d original designs (N1a – N8a). Complete set of plate numbers as listed in C.P., all in mint corner blocks of 4 or 6 stamps. 33 blocks, condition superfine throughout. Cat. \$182 £67.50
- (b) As above.** Middle values 9d – 1/9d (except 1/- Die 2) plate and imprint blocks again complete as listed, including both papers of the 1/9d. 22 mint blocks (9d x 5, 1/- x 6, 1/6d x 5, 1/9d x 6), all superb mint. Cat. \$312 £115.00
- (c) As above.** 2/6d – 10/- Queen on Horseback. Set of 4 imprint/plate blocks, very lightly hinged in selvage only – all stamps perfect unhinged. Cat. \$1030 £375.00
- (d) As above.** Redrawn designs, original paper. 18 plate blocks, once more complete per C.P. listings (1d x 4, 1½d x 4, 2d x 6, incl. pl. 3 and 5 with and without stops, 4d x 2, 6d x 2), all finest mint. Cat. \$195½ £72.50
- (e) As above.** Redrawn designs, thick white paper. Complete set of 13 plate blocks (1d x 2, 2d x 4, 3d x 4, 4d x 2, 8d). Cat. \$173 £65.00
- (f) As above.** Plate blocks of the 2d on 1½d and 2½d on 3d complete, excluding the 2d error (N41a) and the 2½d "abnormals". 12 mint blocks, Cat. \$54 ... £22.50
- (g) As above.** 'Official' plate blocks complete, including all changes of paper and all provisionals. We make no apology for repeating yet again that these are (and always were) much scarcer than is generally realised and they are good buying. 17 Official plate blocks (all in 'sixes' except the 3d white paper, which is in block of 4), superfine mint £325.00
- (h) SPECIAL OFFER.** Lots (a) to (g) above would together make a marvellous basis for a specialised collection of this philatelically extremely interesting series. Individual prices are already considerably reduced, but if ordered as a lot, we will supply at a further discounted price of, inclusive £975.00

- 318** **1931 Healths.** The 'Smiling Boys' in brilliant mint unhinged blocks of 4. We have never seen a finer, fresher pair of blocks than these £785.00
- N.B.** Blocks of 1931s recently sold in public auction in N.Z. for the equivalent of £970. We did not see the blocks concerned, but they certainly could not have been superior to those offered here.

ANTARCTICA

- 319** **Victoria Land ½d.** Quite the best copy of this rarity we've handled for years. Beautifully fresh, centring as close to perfection as makes no difference, (of itself, a noteworthy occurrence in this stamp), excellent perfs., and if there is any trace of a previous hinge, it is so light that we are unable to include it in the description with any certainty! Of the total printing of 2,400, only 1,910 were actually issued to the Scott expedition (and many of these were sold in cancelled form on official certificates after the expedition's return). The rare ½d, superfine mint £525.00
- 320** **Victoria Land 1d.** Our offer of a copy with the plate 13 'Q' flaw a couple of months ago aroused considerable interest. Now we have an example with another constant plate 13 variety — R6/20 frame damage at top right. Condition finest mint £100.00
- Note:** All reports subsequent to our January Bulletin note were of stamps from plate 13. No plate 12 stamps have yet turned up.

1d UNIVERSALS (continued)

- 321(a)** **First Local Plates, Cowan Wmk'd Paper, Perf. 14 (G5a).** Single stamp in carmine, mint £1.50
- (b)** **As above.** Mint block of 4 in carmine-pink (worn plate). Superb mint £7.50
- (c)** **As above.** Vertical pair (with top selvage), variety Imperf. Horizontally (G5aY). Now Cat. \$300 (S.G. £170). Fresh appearance, but vertical crease and rather patchy gum, hence £50.00
- (d)** **As above.** Finest used copy with wmk. inverted-and-reversed (G5aU) £12.50
- 322** **First Local Plates, Cowan Wmk'd Paper, Perf. 11x14 (G5c).** Fine commercially used example, centred to the right. Rare £85.00
- 323(a)** **First Local Plates, Cowan Wmk'd Paper, Perf. 14x11 (G5d).** Superfine mint. A very scarce stamp £87.50
- (b)** **As above.** A magnificent block of 4, fresh and finest mint £360.00
- (c)** **As above.** Dated used copy, centred high, otherwise fine £57.50
- 324(a)** **First Local Plates, Cowan Wmk'd Paper, Mixed Perfs. (G5e).** Originally perf. 14 all round, reperfed 11 horizontally to correct badly misplaced perfs. With official patching on back. Superfine mint £17.50

- (b) **As above.** Same variety, but in outstandingly fine mint block of 4. Choice of two blocks — early, relatively unworn print, or later print showing considerable plate wear (both have official patching). Either block £77.50
- (c) **As above.** Superb used (dated) copy of that rare bird, **originally perf. 14x11, reperfed 11 horizontally.** As yet unlisted in this issue (although a similar variety on 'Pirie' paper is listed as G2eZ) £90.00
- 325(a) Reserve Plate, Perf. 14 (G6a).** This is (together with Waterlow Trial Plates stamps) the most elusive of the "basic" 1d Universals in mint. We can offer a fine mint copy in a typically rich shade at £25.00
- (b) **As above.** Fine used example £3.50
- (c) **As above.** Set of three **dated** used copies — one from each of the main periods of use in 1902, 1905 and 1908. An unusual set £15.00
- 326 Reserve Plate, Perf. 11x14 (G6c).** One of the great 1d Universal rarities. Centred a trifle right, but finest mint £385.00
- 327(a) Reserve Plate, Mixed Perfs. (G6d).** An equally fine mint copy, not quite as rare as the 11x14, but still a very scarce item £260.00
- (b) **As above.** Extremely fine dated used £250.00
- 328(a) Booklet Plate (G7a).** Superb used — a difficult one! £7.50
- (b) **As above.** Finest mint copy, overprinted Official (G07a) £6.50
- (c) **As above.** Complete pane of 6 (with binding selvage intact), overprinted Official (W02aZ) £40.00
- 329(a) Dot Plates, Perf. 14 (G8a).** Mint copy (unworn plate) £2.00
- (b) **As above.** Block of 4 in a beautiful deep bright aniline shade. Very striking. Finest mint £25.00
- (c) **As above.** Superfine used block of 4 in a very similar but somewhat deeper aniline. Spectacular block £20.00
- 330 Dot Plates, Perf. 11x14 (G8b).** Finest used (advanced plate wear). Rare! ... £110.00
- 331(a) Dot Plates, Mixed Perfs. (G8d).** Superb mint copy (worn plate), perf. 14x14x 11x14. Pedantically speaking, this is an example of "irregular compound perfs". £12.50
- (b) **As above.** A matched pair (one unworn, one worn), both originally perf. 14 all round, reperfed 11 horizontally, and both with officially patched row of perf. 14 through the design. Two lovely examples of true 'mixed', finest mint £32.50
- (c) **As above.** Two blocks of 4 (incidentally in outstanding shade contrasts), one with mixed perfs. horizontally (the "usual" form), the other with the very much scarcer mixed perfs. **vertically.** Some staining on the 'vertical mixed' block, fully allowed for in the price of, the two blocks £125.00

- (d) **As above.** Last but by no means least in the mixed perfs 'Dots', a superb used copy in **carmine-lake**, and complete with official patching still intact. In this perfect form, must be a great rarity £67.50

(To be continued)

But before we leave the 1d Universals for this month, one or two items of exhibition quality from the scarce Trial Slot Machine issues.

- 332(a) Dickie Machine, June 15, 1905.** Dot Plates stamps — a magnificent strip of 3, with roulettes gauging 9½ at both ends of the strip. Condition brilliant mint £500.00
- (b) As above.** Single copy, also with 9½ roulettes at both sides, but genuine commercially used! Of the utmost rarity £150.00
- 333(a) Dickie Machine, July 8, 1905.** Superfine mint pair, yet again with roulettes on both sides (in this case gauging 14½) £375.00
- (b) As above.** Single stamp, yes, once more with roulettes (14½) on both sides, and again superb mint £185.00
- (c) As above.** Commercially used copy, roulettes at right only, and cut rather close (but completely clear of the design) at left £80.00

RECENT ISSUES

- 50c Shell Reprint** with two maroon asterisks opposite R10/3. Imprint block of 6 stamps £3.25
- \$2 Shell Reprint** with one green asterisk opposite R10/1. A notable feature of this printing is the large yellow flaw which appears under R10/2 in the Imprint block (of 6 stamps) £10.50
- 24c Map, new perf. 14¼x 14.** Mint single 19p
- Two imprint/plate blocks (2 : 1 : 3 dots), bottom selvage perforated and not perforated through £3.00
- Sheet value block of 6 stamps £1.45
- 1983 Anniversaries** (issued 4/2/83) 24c (Salvation Army), 30c (University of Auckland), 35c (ANZCER), 40c (Rainbow Trout), 45c (World Communications Year).
Mint set of 5 £1.45
- Complete set of 9 imprint/plate blocks (one plate only for the 35c, two plates each for other values) £16.75
- Set of 5 imprint/plate blocks (one of each value) £9.60
- Complete set of 5 sheet value blocks of 4 £5.75
- Illustrated Official First Day Cover (Wanganui Postmark) £1.55