

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN

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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

by Colin Hamilton

A Tricky Question — and That's Official! If you were asked: 'What was the first adhesive Official postage stamp issued in New Zealand?', the chances are that you'd answer 'one of the O.P.S.O. overprints' (the first of these was issued in December 1891). Wrong! Or perhaps 'the V.R. Life Insurance Dept. set of 1891' (these appeared in January of that year). Sorry, wrong again!

But don't be dismayed, for the real answer is a stamp that I doubt one N.Z. collector in a hundred knows exists — and far less than that will have seen an example. Even if given the clue that it was printed in black on blue paper, perforated 12½ and issued in 1887, I doubt that would help much, especially as it is not listed in any of the standard catalogues (including our own).

The stamp was issued for use by the Printing and Stationery Department (P.A.S.D.). I suppose it would be more accurate to term it an adhesive frank, since it carried the inscription POSTAGE FREE rather than a face value. The design was identical to that much more commonly found impressed directly on to various items of P.A.S.D. postal stationery. The paper from which these items were made was normally white or cream, but in one case the frank was impressed on a blue envelope. Fortunately, the paper quality of the latter was quite different from that used for the adhesive stamps.

(A copy of the adhesive is offered elsewhere in this issue of the NZ Bulletin).

1/6d Tiki 'Green Dots'. As mentioned briefly last month, Mr D.J. Holmes of Lillington has added a new dimension to this mystery. He kindly sent us no less than seven mint examples of the "Regular Dots" variety, all in blocks, for examination. Three of these were R15/1 (in printer's imprint blocks); three were in left marginal blocks; and **one was R6/1 in a positional block** (the first conclusive evidence of this position we have encountered since the existence of the variety in at least two different positions recently came to light).

Because R6/1 has now definitely been established, it is probable that all the non-R15/1 examples are from this position. It should be noted that the disposition, size, and spacing of the dots (each 5.6mm below the dot above) are identical in all cases. In non-R15/1 examples there is often a fifth dot — not shown in our illustration (a), March Bulletin — appearing very faintly 5.6mm below the fourth, and thus falling (in normally-centred stamps) in the white gutter below the design. We have not yet seen a R15/1 copy showing this fifth dot.

Normally the topmost dot is the largest and strongest, those below being progressively smaller and weaker. All the more curious, then, that in several of Mr Holmes' examples which show only two or three of the dots, **it is the (stronger) upper ones which are missing!**

Most curious of all, however, is Mr Holmes' own observation that **there are two other vertical rows of green dots**, to be found on Rows 6 and 7, Stamp 2, and on Rows 15 and 16, Stamp 2! The configuration of these is quite different, both from each other, and from the 'Regular Dots'. In each case these dots extend in a line over the two stamps mentioned, skirting the right-hand side of the Tiki. Measuring from top to bottom, the spacing is as follows:

R6/2, 7/2 : Five dots, spaced 5.8mm, 15.6mm, 10mm, 5.5mm (the top three dots are on R6/2, the bottom two on R7/2).

R15/2, 16/2 : Seven dots, spaced 5.7mm, 10mm, 5.7mm, 10mm, 5.5mm, 10mm (the top three dots are on R15/2, the fourth lies in the gutter between 15/2 and 16/2, and the bottom three are on R16/2).

There seems to be no discernible definite pattern, although the repetition of an exact 10mm gap several times suggests something more than just a random occurrence. I wish I could offer some kind of rational explanation for what has rapidly become a spots-before-the-eyes epidemic!

Footnote: Of well over 20 examples of the "conventional" green dots traced to date, every one has been the 'Regular' variety, so it is becoming increasingly likely that the 'Irregularly' spaced type does not exist.

1967 PICTORIALS

All mint offered in this listing are unhinged, unless otherwise stated.

501(a)	½c Manuka (0D1a). Mint single 7p ; block of 4	25p
(b)	As above. Plate no. 1Ax3, 1Bx3 or Imprint. Each block (of 6 stamps)	55p
(c)	As above. Booklet pane of 6 without selvedge letters (W9aZ)	£1.00
(d)	As above. Booklet pane of 6, with selvedge letters XB (W9aY)	£1.50
502(a)	1c Karaka (0D2a). Mint single 4p ; block of 4	15p
(b)	As above. Plate no. 1Ax4, 1Bx4 or Imprint, Each block (of 6 stamps)	30p
(c)	As above. Booklet pane of 6, without selvedge letters (W9aX)	£1.00
(d)	As above. Booklet pane of 6, with selvedge letters XB (W9aW)	£1.50
(e)	As above. Booklet pane of 5 stamps + label, without selvedge letters (W9aV)	£1.50
(f)	As above. Booklet pane of 5 stamps + label, with selvedge letters XB (W9aU)	£1.75
503(a)	2c Kaka Beak (0D3a). Mint single 4p ; block of 4	15p
(b)	As above. Plate no. 1Ax4, 1A1A1A2A or Imprint. Each block (of 6 stamps)	30p

504(a)	2½c Kowhai (0D4a). Mint single 4p ; block of 4	15p
(b)	As above. Plate no. 1Ax4. Block of 6 (includes the good constant plate varieties on R19/1 and 19/3)	£1.25
(c)	As above. Plate no. 1Bx4, 2B2B2B3B, or Imprint. Each block (of 6 stamps)	35p
(d)	As above. Plate no. 2A2A2A3A. Block of 6 (includes R19/9 flaw state)	£2.50
(e)	As above. Counter coil pair (0DC4), one stamp lightly hinged	£1.00
505(a)	3c Puarangi (0D5a). Mint single 4p ; block of 4	15p
(b)	As above. Plate no. 1Ax4. Block of 6 (includes constant major plate variety on R19/1)	£2.75
(c)	As above. Plate no. 1Bx4, 2A1A1A1A, 2B1B1B1B, 2A2A2A3A, 2B2B2B3B, or Imprint. Each block (of 6 stamps)	35p
(d)	As above. Booklet pane of 6, no selvedge letters (W9aT)	£1.00
(e)	As above. Booklet pane of 6, with selvedge letters XA or XB (W9aS), each pane	£1.25
(f)	As above. Counter Coil pair (0DC5), one stamp lightly hinged	60p
506(a)	4c Daisy (0D6a). Set of two mint, one with the original gum arabic (glossy), one with the later PVA gum (matt)	35p
(b)	As above. Imprint/plate block of 12, gum arabic, plate nos 1Ax4 or 1Bx4. Each block	£2.75
(c)	As above. Imprint/plate block of 12, PVA gum, plate nos 1A1A2A1A or 1B1B2B1B. Each block	£2.25
(d)	As above. Counter coil pair (0DC6)	75p
507(a)	5c Pikiarero (0D7a). Mint single 18p ; block of 4	65p
(b)	As above. Plate no. 1Ax3. Block of 6	£2.00
508(a)	6c Koromiko (0D8a). Mint single 40p ; block of 4	£1.50
(b)	As above. Imprint/plate block of 12, plate no. 1Ax4, or 1Bx4, each block	£5.25
(c)	As above. Counter coil pair (0DC8)	£1.00
509(a)	7c Rata (0D9a). Mint single 40p ; block of 4	£1.50
(b)	As above. Plate no. 1Ax3. Block of 6	£3.25

510(a)	8c Flag (OD10a). Mint single 40p ; block of 4	£1.50
(b)	As above. Imprint/plate block of 8, plate no. 1A1A	£3.75
(c)	As above. Counter coil pair (ODC10)	£1.25
(d)	As above. Marginal block of 4 incl. R12/1 retouch around the foot of Z. Excellent nakēd-eye variety	£4.75
511(a)	10c Timber Industry (OD11a). The original design. Mint single 50p ; block of 4	£2.00
(b)	As above. Imprint/plate block of 8, plate no. 1A1A	£6.00
512(a)	15c Tiki Original (OD12a). Single mint or superb used, each	75p
(b)	As above. Variety Watermark Inverted (OD12aZ). Mint single	£6.00
(c)	As above. Marginal block of 4 with inverted watermark	£25.00
(d)	As above. Sheet Value block of 4, also with inverted watermark	£27.50
513(a)	15c Tiki Altered Colours (OD12b). Mint single 60p ; block of 4	£2.25
(b)	As above. Imprint/plate block of 8, plate no. 1Ax3	£5.75
(c)	As above. Counter coil pair (ODC12). Cat. \$5. Special offer at	£1.25
(d)	As above. Another counter coil pair, with the unaltered sheet value \$22.5 showing on the underlapped selvedge (this marking in issued sheets was almost invariably altered to \$22.50 in manuscript)	£1.50
514(a)	20c Rock Drawing (OD13a). Mint single 90p ; block of 4	£3.50
(b)	As above. Imprint/plate block of 10, plate no. 1A1A	£10.25
(c)	As above. Counter coil pair (ODC13)	£4.00
515	25c Butter-Making (OD14a). Mint single £2.00 ; block of 4	£8.00

To be concluded.

MISCELLANY

521

1898 COVER

Pair of the 2½d WAKITIPU (E7a) tied to plain cover (addressed to Australia) by single superb Hutt c.d.s. of 31st May 1898. Delightful contemporary usage of a stamp which is scarce used off cover, and rare on cover. Clean, fine and fresh

£67.50

- 522 K.G.V 2½d.** Bottom right corner copy, perf. 14x13½, with dandy roll no. 2 watermarked sideways into the extreme edge of the huge selvedge.
Unhinged mint £10.25

- 523 1935 2/- Capt. Cook Landing.** Superb die-proof, printed in deep green approximating to the issued colour, on thin white wove paper (63mmx45mm). The proof shows very clearly the massive flaw in the rigging (and a couple of more minor die-flaws) which subsequently necessitated the extensive touching up to every impression on plate 1 before it was put to press. The rare die-proof – an essential frontispiece to any study of the 2/- £345.00

- 524(a) K.G.VI ½d Green (M1a).** Plate block of 4, pl. no. 1 (this appeared in the left selvedge only). Finest mint £3.50
- (b) **As above,** but with pl. no. 2 (also appeared in left selvedge only) £3.50
- (c) **As above.** Pair of plate blocks, showing pl. no. 16 in both left and right selvedges £7.00
- (d) **As above,** but pl. no. 17. The two blocks £7.00
- (e) **As above,** but pl. no. 18. The two blocks £7.00
- (f) **As above,** but pl. no. 19. The two blocks £7.00
- 525 Q.E. 2d on 1½d.** Superb unhinged copy (large surcharge dot) with variety Double Print of Surcharge, One Albino (N40aW). Lovely example, the albino print being widely misplaced, and clearly impressed £8.25
- 526(a) 1960 Pictorial 2½d (04a).** Marginal block of 4 in the scarcer shade (3), with the grey, yellow-green and red colours all markedly pale. Twinned with a block in normal colours to make a quite remarkable contrasting pair £7.50
- (b) **As above.** Vertical pair with a massive 7½mm downward shift of the brown resulting in this colour straddling the gutter between the stamps. Spectacularly messy! £15.00
- (c) **As above.** Marginal block of 6 (2x3) with a magnificent doctor blade flaw (in grey) across the entire width of the central pair, and through the selvedge £15.00
- 527(a) 1960 Pictorial 3d.** Marginal block of 4 in the rare and distinctive "Westport" shade (05a(5)) – so called because it was unique to a very small printing released at that office £22.50
- (b) **As above.** Vertical pair, upper stamp normal, lower stamp with error Yellow Totally Omitted (05aZ). Perfect unhinged £25.00

(c)	As above. Vertical strip of 3, top stamp normal, centre stamp with Brown Partly Omitted (about 50%), bottom stamp with Brown Totally Omitted. Previously hinged, but very fine and attractive	£27.50
528	1960 Pictorial 1/9d Bistre. Marginal block of 4, one stamp being the good R6/16 retouch to skyline (0V15a). Cat. \$90	£37.50
529	10c Q.E./Coat of Arms. Counter coil pair, variety One Stamp Watermark Inverted (PC12aZ). Cat. \$75	£27.50
530	\$5 "Beehive"— Special Offer. Superb used block of 4. Normal price £15 as four singles. Very limited quantity, so first come first served at, the block N.B. Because of the highly surfaced finish to the paper, this stamp is very difficult to obtain fine used and as a top value definitive, it is destined to become a key item of the future.	£12.00
531(a)	1935 Silver Jubilee. Complete set on plain first day cover (7th May 1935). Not at all one of the common F.D.C. Used 6d now Cat. \$95 alone off cover	£42.50
(b)	As above. Set of three blocks of 4 of the 1d (all mint unhinged) in very striking shades ranging from a definite pale pink-carmine, to deep, deep carmine. Most unusual in a stamp where the colour is normally pretty uniform	£4.75
532(a)	1946 Health. Printer's imprint blocks of 4, both blocks having the variety Blurred Centres (T18aW/T18bZ). The 1d block has slight faults affecting the gummed side only — facially superb. The two blocks, Cat. \$120+	£45.00
(b)	As above. Two top marginal blocks of the 1d+½d — one has the frame plate 'job number' 43009 offset on the back of the selvage, the other a similar offset of the centre plate 'job number' 43012. Despite previous hinge defects, a pair of blocks of considerable specialist interest, since these numbers do not normally appear either on the front or the back of issued sheets	£12.50
(c)	As above. A very similar block, of the 2d+1d, with frame 'job number' 43010 offset	£7.50
(d)	As above. Marginal pair of the 2d+1d, with abnormally wide selvage showing part of the job number 43010 on the front, and corresponding offset on the back	£7.50
533	1951 Health 2d+1d. Superb mint marginal copy with variety Watermark Inverted (T23bZ). One of the scarcer Health 'Inverts'	£30.00
534	1964 Health 2½d+1d. Copy with huge (6mm) upward shift of the red. One of several peculiar results is that the smaller bird has acquired a pair of dangling red earrings! Delightfully different	£17.50
535	1935 Air Mail 6d. Two matching corner copies, each with plate no. 3 and sheet serial number in the selvage, in beautifully contrasting shades of blue	£17.50

536	King Edward VII Land 1d (RD1a). Superb used copy	£35.00
537	1d Victoria Land (RD3a). Unhinged mint	£47.50
538	Printing and Stationery Dept. Unused (no gum) copy of the rare, little-known, and seldom seen POSTAGE FREE adhesive (described in this month's notes). An item with a story to add that touch of unusual interest to any collection	£32.50
539	Tattersall Covers. Most readers will recall that in June last year we carried an article relating to Tattersall's lottery activities in Hobart, Tasmania. We can now offer two censored covers of the 1940/41 period, each with a different "Tattersall handstamp". An unusual album page in the making (a copy of our June 1983 Bulletin article will be included for reference)	£7.50

SECOND PICTORIALS SPECIALISED (Contd).

540(a)	5d Swordfish, Perf. 12½, Coarse Paper (L8e). Hinged mint copy	£4.50
(b)	As above. Plate block of 4 (pl. no. 2). Fine mint	£22.50
541(a)	5d Swordfish, Perf. 13¼x13¼, Coarse Paper (L8f). Unhinged mint copy	£3.00
(b)	As above. Set of three finest mint, in outstanding shades of deep ultramarine, pale ultramarine and dull grey-blue. Superb contrasts	£11.75
(c)	As above. The deep ultramarine and dull grey-blue shades, but in mint blocks of 4	£25.00
(d)	As above. A magnificent fresh mint (hinged) example of the major variety Double Print, One Albino (L8fX) which, quite apart from the overall blurring of the design, resulted in the unique and very distinctive Cobalt Blue shade. One of N.Z.'s best recess-printed errors. Cat. \$450, offered at a bargain price (with a stamp in a normal shade for comparison)	£125.00
(e)	As above. Set of three plate blocks from plate 2 in three different states: (i) All stamps normal; (ii) R9/1 and 10/2 showing prominent coloured flaws (these were just two of a large number of impressions which were affected, due to the deterioration of the surface of the plate); (iii) R9/1 and 10/1 now with extensive re-entry doubling (R10/1 is a particularly fine example of re-entry, the figure 5 at the right being almost completely doubled). Curiously R10/2 was not attended to, and more curiously still, R9/1, although re-entered has the flaws even more pronounced than before. A superb progressive set of blocks	£62.50
(f)	As above. As an alternative to lot (e) above, we can supply a set of two blocks in states (ii) and (iii) only. If you already have state (i), or if you don't require the normal, this should be your choice at	£50.00
(g)	As above. Plate block of 4, plate no. 3. Very minor tone spots, so cheap at	£7.50

(h)	As above. Copy used on printed National Patriotic Fund Board cover in March 1945 to Australia. Stamp is the R8/1 major re-entry, with extensive doubling of the design at the right. Attractive!	£13.50
542(a)	6d Harvesting, Single Wmk (L9a). Single mint unhinged in the normal scarlet shade	£3.00
(b)	As above, but hinged mint	£2.25
(c)	As above. Two mint blocks of 4 in the most astounding shades you ever saw. One is a rich deep bright scarlet, the other a delicate pale scarlet — a good deal paler even than the characteristic colour of the perf. 12½ issue. A pair of blocks to take your breath away	£35.00
543(a)	6d Harvesting, Mult. Wmk, Perf. 13½x14 (L9b). Set of two mint (hinged) in the listed shades of scarlet and deep scarlet	£5.00
(b)	As above. Plate block of 4 with variety Watermark Inverted (L9bZ), and showing an intermediate state of the plate crack which developed around the plate number	£40.00
(c)	As above. Single copy with wmk inverted, hinged mint	£9.00
544(a)	6d Harvesting, Perf. 12½ (L9c). Mint unhinged copy (Cat. \$8), special offer at	£2.75
(b)	As above. Marginal block of 4, unhinged mint	£10.50
(c)	As above. Plate block of 4, a few slight gum-tones	£10.00
(d)	As above. Large block of 40 (four complete vertical rows from the right of a sheet, complete with all selvages). Minor toning affects three stamps, otherwise fresh and fine. Good study material	£35.00
545(a)	6d Harvesting, Perf. 14½x14, Fine Paper (L9d). The good one (not to be confused with the much commoner issue in the same perf. on coarse paper). Single, mint unhinged	£6.50
(b)	As above, but lightly hinged copy	£4.75
(c)	As above. Plate block of 4, superfine	£30.00
546(a)	6d Harvesting, Perf. 14½x14, Coarse Paper (L9e). Unhinged mint copy	£1.75
(b)	As above, but lightly hinged	£1.25
(c)	As above. Set of two plate blocks (plate nos 2 and 3) complete — incidentally in nicely contrasting shades. The two blocks	£15.00

(To be continued)