

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN

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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

by Colin Hamilton

Penny Dominion. The only die proofs recorded for this design are printed on glazed white card. This month's offers include examples of all three known colours — pale chestnut, rose-carmine and black. Although the fact is not specified in the N.Z. Handbook, these proofs are from the completed die, but in its **uncleared** state. In other words, there is an irregular and superfluous 'frame' of colour surrounding the design proper. The one other set I have seen were similarly unclear — I have no knowledge of any proof taken from the **cleared** die.

At first glance, however, the recent black example **appears** to be from the cleared die, but on closer inspection, the extra colour has been carefully removed from the surface of the proof itself. I have seen this peculiarity in two other black die proofs — an Edward VII ½d and a 1d Universal (surface print design). When one considers that all three were produced by Perkins, Bacon and Co., and that all were more or less contemporary — within the period 1908-09 — it begins to appear that it was the standard practice of Perkins, Bacon and Co. at that time to submit a proof in this form for final passing.

1967 50c Booklets. Volume 6 of the N.Z. Handbook gives details of the content and layout of the plates used to print these booklet stamps. Each plate carried six groups of 30 impressions (3 x 10) arranged in two horizontal groups of three, one in the upper half of the plate, the other in the lower half, with vertical and horizontal spacing between the groups. Thus each sheet as printed contained 30 panes — 15 arranged in three vertical groups of 5 in the upper half, and 15 similarly arranged in the lower half. The marking XA appeared in the selvedge alongside stamps 2 and 9 in the extreme left hand column in the upper part of the sheet, and the marking XB appeared in the same positions in the lower part of the sheet.

The Handbook goes on to state "The sheets were perforated from the left with a double comb machine The sheets of stamps along with the sheets of advertising panes and airmail etiquettes were then made up into booklets, stitched together and guillotined The majority of booklets contained panes all from the same position on the cylinder, but some booklets were found with the XA and XB panes mixed within the one booklet. This indicates that the two components of the sheets, that is, the top "A" part and the lower "B" part, were separated before the booklets were put together."

I have in the past seen a small number of these abnormal "mixed" booklets which fit the facts as stated above. However two examined recently are clearly at variance with some of the Handbook statements — abnormal "abnormals", if you like! For simplicity's sake, I will confine my comments to my findings in just one booklet. The ½c pane had the XB marking alongside stamp

no. 1 (i.e. this pane was from the bottom left corner of the **lower** part of a sheet). The 5 x 1c pane (with printed label) had the XA marking alongside stamp 1 (proving it to be from the bottom left corner of the **upper** part of a sheet). Yet both of these panes had unquestionably been perforated by the identical section of the same double-comb perforating head, proved beyond any doubt by the recurrence of several very pronounced irregularities of pin-alignment in identical positions on both panes. It follows from this that sheets were separated not only prior to the making-up of the booklets, **but prior to the perforating too.**

The 6 x 1c pane in my booklet was another anomaly. Logically it ought to have shown either XA or XB alongside stamp 1, but it had no selvedge marking. However, it did show the same unmistakable irregularities in the perf-pin alignment as the panes mentioned above. It is clear, therefore, that this pane came from the bottom horizontal row of panes in either the upper or lower part of the sheet. The only possible explanation is that at least some half-sheets were **further** sub-divided vertically before the process of making up the booklets began (Then, of course, the question arises: If this was done sometimes, was it in fact standard practice?).

Finally, the 3c panes from this quite extraordinarily instructive booklet also yielded their due share of information. Both had XA at top, and the perforations on both were the product of the same section of a double-comb head, **but they did not match those on the other panes**, thus demonstrating that at least two different heads were used for these booklet issues.

1D DOMINION SPECIALISED

A superb series of offers from one of New Zealand's most philatelically interesting issues.

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 201(a) Die Proof. From the uncleared die, printed in pale chestnut on glazed white card (48x60mm). Condition superb | £250.00 |
| (b) As above. An exactly similar proof, but printed in rose-carmine | £250.00 |
| (c) As above. A third die proof, printed in black. Also from the uncleared state of the die, but in this case the extraneous colour surrounding the design has been meticulously removed so that the proof gives a true impression of the finished design (see this month's notes) | £250.00 |
| 202(a) Plate Proofs. A fine group of ten different items printed in shades of grey and black, all imperf. except one (perf. 14x15). Includes two pairs, one of which is printed on both sides of the paper, and a single on salmon-coloured card. A couple of minor faults, otherwise superfine | £60.00 |
| (b) As above. A vertical strip from an unguillotined booklet sheet, consisting of panes no. 3, 11 and 19 se-tenant. From one of the early (electrotype) booklet plates, with bars added. Printed in the issued colour on gummed wmk'd paper, and perf. 14x15. Interestingly, the impressions in the upper two panes show the characteristic Plate 13 flaw, while those in the bottom pane do not have this flaw. Perfs. a little fragile in places, but fresh and fine overall | £115.00 |
| (c) As above. Complete pane of 6, imperf. and printed in black on thick glazed paper, from the top row of a proof sheet from the later steel booklet plate — proved by the vertical selvedge bars, which protrude above the top of the uppermost impressions. In perfect condition | £32.50 |

203	Mint Reference Set. Eight 1d Dominions, representing all the major issues of this stamp between 1909 and 1926 (one each of J1a to J8a). All fully identified. Cat. \$122.50	£52.50
204(a)	Plates 12 and 13 Reference Set. Five copies from plate 12, showing the cumulative flaws which developed on the transfer die during the laying down of the plate, plus a copy from plate 13, with its own characteristic flaw. All on De La Rue paper and used	£4.75
	(b) As above. Mint reference set on simpler lines, being one identifiable copy from each of the two plates (again on De La Rue paper)	£5.00
205	Mint Blocks — Plated. All of the following plate 12 blocks have been allocated to their sheet positions. One or two splitting perfs. here and there, but marvellous study material, of immense value to the plating enthusiast, and seldom available:	
	(a) Jones Paper (J2a). Block of 4, Rows 4 - 5, Nos. 1 - 2. Unhinged	£30.00
	(b) As above. Block of 4, Rows 4 - 5, Nos. 7 - 8. Again unhinged	£30.00
	(c) As above. Top selvedge block of 20 (4 x 5), Rows 1 - 5, Nos. 9 - 12. Very fine	£125.00
	(d) As above. Similar block of 20, but Rows 1 - 5, Nos. 13 - 16. Also very fine	£125.00
	(e) As above. Bottom selvedge block of 30 (6 x 5), Rows 6 - 10, Nos. 7 - 12. Natural black speck on one stamp, otherwise superb	£185.00
	(f) As above. Block of 12 (4 x 3), Rows 6 - 8, Nos. 13 - 16. Minor gum tone one stamp	£75.00
	(g) As above. Bottom selvedge block of 12 (6 x 2), Rows 9 - 10, Nos. 13 - 18. Superfine	£82.50
	(h) De La Rue Chalky Paper, Sideways Wmk (J4a). Bottom selvedge block of 8 (4 x 2), Rows 9 - 10, Nos. 7 - 10. Upper four stamps have the normal wmk W.7a, lower row have the double-lined letters wmk (showing the word NEW complete). Very fine	£32.50
	(i) As above. A remarkable bottom selvedge block of 30 (6 x 5), Rows 6 - 10, Nos. 13 - 18. Six stamps have wmk W.7b (sideways inverted), sixteen have no wmk, and the remainder have letters wmk, the complete word NEW appearing twice in the block. Some staining, and fragile perfs, all more than fully compensated for in the price of, the large block	£72.50
	(j) Art Paper, Litho Wmk (J5a). Top marginal block of 10 (2 x 5), Rows 1 - 5, Nos. 7 - 8	£6.50
	(k) As above. Left selvedge block of 18 (6 x 3), Rows 4 - 6, Nos. 1 - 6. Superb	£12.50
	(l) As above. A magnificent corner block of 24, Rows 7 - 10, Nos. 1 - 6	£19.50

(m)	As above. Right selvage block of 8 (4 x 2), Rows 3 - 4, Nos. 21 - 24. Very fine	£6.50
(n)	As above. Block of 24 (4 x 6), Rows 3 - 8, Nos. 17 - 20. Superfine	£20.00
(o)	As above. Right selvage block of 8 (4 x 2) Rows 7 - 8, Nos. 21 - 24. Very fine	£6.50
206(a)	De La Rue Paper, Wmk Upright (J1a), Corner block of 4 (with sheet serial number) from plate 13. Multiples from this plate are very elusive. Finest mint	£17.50
(b)	As above. Another fine mint block (of 6 stamps), plated to Rows 6 and 7, Nos. 1 - 3 from plate 13, and thus from the small area of the plate without the characteristic flaw. Superb specialist material	£22.50
(c)	As above. A bottom marginal example of the rare major variety Pair Imperforate (J1aT). A rather heavy horizontal crease affects the price far, far more than the facial appearance! Cat. \$1000, offered at	£85.00
(d)	As above. Mint copy, incidentally from plate 13, with brilliant Offset on Back (J1aZ)	£13.50
(e)	As above. Used copy showing variety Blurred Heavy Print (J1aS). Selected extreme example	£2.75
(f)	As above. Mint block of 4 with wildly misplaced perfs. bisecting the designs both horizontally and vertically! Has to be seen to be believed	£22.50
(g)	As above. Booklet pane, complete with all selvages, from an early electrotype plate printing, prior to the addition of the selvage bars (W3bP). Cat. \$200, but gum stains (showing on face side), hence	£10.00
(h)	As above. Block of 4 (with side selvages) from a later electrotype plate printing, now showing bars in selvages and pronounced blurring of the impressions. Cat. \$100 as two pairs (W3bF)	£32.50
207(a)	Jones Paper (J2a). Unhinged mint copy	£9.00
(b)	As above. Corner block of 6 incl. the R3/1 Feather flaw (J2aV). Very scarce in positional block, and superfine mint	£52.50
(c)	As above. Two used, each showing different major damage to top frame, R4/17 and R6/21 (J2aU)	£3.75
(d)	As above. Used copy with variety Watermark Inverted (J2aY)	£20.00
(e)	As above. Fine mint copy of the rare and major variety Printed on Unsurfaced Paper (C.P. J2aX, S.G. 520a). Unconditionally guaranteed	£225.00

(To be continued)

BOOKLET PANES — USED!

208 **King Edward VII ½d.** Pane of 6, with selvage bars, **commercially used,**

	dated Oct. 1914. No binding selvage (as one would expect in non-philatelic usage), but otherwise complete, and in remarkably fine condition for such an item, the first we can recall having seen. (Cat. \$250 as a mint pane)	£67.50
209	Q.E. 1d and 3d Original Design. Set of 4 complete panes, one with wmk upright, one wmk inverted in each value (W7aZ, Y, X, W). Unlike the previous item, these were no doubt philatelically inspired, but nevertheless unusual ..	£7.50
210(a)	1960 Pictorial ½d, 1d, 3d. Complete set of three panes from the original type (stapled) issue	£7.50
(b)	As above. Similar set of three, but from the later stitched booklets – in this case all have matching number (4) in the selvage	£10.00

RECENT ISSUES

	\$2.40 Booklets. New booklets with the 24c Map stamp in the new 14¼x14 perforation, both right-hand and left-hand selvage. The two booklets, perfs as they come	£4.00
	As above. For the collector requiring perfection we can offer the two booklets, specially selected for superb perfs. Extremely difficult to find	£6.00

..... AND RECENT VARIETIES

A)	1982 Seasons 70c. Two superb centre shades	£2.50
B)	1983 Anniversaries 24c. Imprint/plate (1A) block of 6, including R10/3 "blue dot over 1883" variety	£1.75
C)	1983 Paintings 30c. Two 'panel' shades (blocks of 4 pro rata)	£1.75
D)	1983 Paintings 35c. Two 'panel' shades (blocks of 4 pro rata)	£1.85
E)	1983 Beautiful N.Z., 45c. Corner block of 4, with R9/9 "red scratch on mountain top" variety	£3.00
F)	Beautiful N.Z. Postcards. Complete set of 4 full-colour postcards	£1.00
G)	30c Shell. Two quite brilliant frame contrasts (deep and bright)	£2.00
H)	\$1 Shell. Two centre shades	£2.75
I)	\$2 Shell. Reprint imprint block of 6, with large yellow flaw below R10/2	£10.00
J)	As above. Two centre contrasts	£4.25
K)	24c Map, perf. 12½x12½. Plate block 211, bottom selvage perforated with R9/1 (scratch TR corner) variety	£3.50
L)	As above. Plate block 211, bottom selvage not perforated, with 10/1 and 10/2 varieties	£3.75

- M) 1c and 2c Minerals, perf. 12½x12½. These are the "odd perforation" stamps — we predict that these two (the 2c in particular) will rapidly become much sought after. Unmounted mint blocks of 4 £1.00
- N) As above, but superb used blocks of 4 £1.20

HALF-PRICE BLOCKS OF 4

A continuation of last month's listing of unhinged mint blocks of 4 at 50% off the normal prices advertised below. As then, cash with order, please, and offer holds only while limited surplus stocks last.

Pre-Decimal Commemoratives.

211(a)	1935 Silver Jubilee ½d (S18a) ..	80p	211(al)	1953 Visit 3d (S64a)	30p
(b)	1d (S18b) ..	80p	(am)	4d (S65a)	70p
(c)	1936 Ch. of Comm. ½d (S20a) ..	40p	(an)	1955 Stamp Cent. 2d (S66a) ...	30p
(d)	1d (S21a) ..	40p	(ao)	3d (S67a) ...	30p
(e)	4d (S23a) ..	£10.00	(ap)	4d (S68a) ...	90p
(f)	1937 Coronation 1d (S25a)	40p	(aq)	1956 Southland 2d (S69a)	30p
(g)	2½d (S25b) ..	£2.00	(ar)	3d (S70a)	20p
(h)	1940 Centennial ½d (S26a)	40p	(as)	8d (S71a)	£5.00
(i)	1d (S27a)	50p	(at)	1957 Plunket 3d (S72a)	20p
(j)	1½d (S28a) ..	80p	(au)	1958 Tasman 6d (S75a)	80p
(k)	2d (S30a)	70p	(av)	1958 Nelson 3d (S76a)	20p
(l)	10d (S37a) ..	£1.60	(aw)	1958 Hawkes Bay 2d (S77a)	30p
(m)	1946 Peace ½d (S39a)	20p	(ax)	3d (S78a)	20p
(n)	1d (S40a)	20p	(ay)	8d (S79a)	£6.00
(o)	1½d (S41a)	20p	(az)	1959 Marlborough 2d (S81a) ...	30p
(p)	2d (S42a)	20p	(ba)	3d (S82a) ...	24p
(q)	3d (S43a)	30p	(bb)	8d (S83a) ...	£6.00
(r)	4d (S44a)	36p	(bc)	1959 Red Cross 3d (S84a)	40p
(s)	5d (S45a)	40p	(bd)	1960 Westland 2d (S85a)	20p
(t)	6d (S46a)	60p	(be)	8d (S87a)	£6.00
(u)	8d (S47a)	70p	(bf)	1962 Telegraph 3d (S88a)	20p
(v)	9d (S48a)	70p	(bg)	8d (S89a)	£6.00
(w)	1/- (S49a)	£2.00	(bh)	1963 Railways 3d (S90a)	40p
(x)	1948 Otago 1d (S50a)	20p	(bi)	1/9d (S91a)	£10.00
(y)	2d (S51a)	30p	(bj)	1963 COMPAC 8d (S92a)	£7.50
(z)	3d (S52a)	30p	(bk)	1963 Road Safety 3d (S93a) ...	20p
(aa)	6d (S53a)	50p	(bl)	1965 ANZAC 4d (S94a)	30p
(ab)	1950 Canterbury 1d (S54a)	20p	(bm)	5d (S95a)	70p
(ac)	2d (S55a)	24p	(bn)	1965 I.T.U. 9d (S96a)	£1.20
(ad)	3d (S56a)	40p	(bo)	1965 Churchill 7d (S97a)	£1.20
(ae)	6d (S57a)	50p	(bp)	1965 Govt. Cent. 4d (S98a)	30p
(af)	1/- (S58a)	£1.00	(bq)	1965 I.C.Y. 4d (S99a)	30p
(ag)	1953 Coronation 2d (S59a)	20p	(br)	1965 Comm. Conf. 4d (S100a) ..	80p
(ah)	3d (S60a)	20p	(bs)	9d (S101a) ..	£3.50
(ai)	4d (S61a)	80p	(bt)	2/- (S102a) ..	£30.00
(aj)	8d (S62a)	£2.00	(bu)	1966 Scout 4d (S103a)	30p
(ak)	1/6d (S63a) ..	£3.00	(bv)	1967 P.O.S.B. 4d (S104a)	30p
			(bw)	9d (S105a)	£1.20