

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

by Colin Hamilton

1940 Centennial Officials — 'Joined ff' Varieties. An enquiry from a correspondent brings to my attention the fact that while most of the major catalogues list these varieties, none (as far as I am aware) gives any indication as to how they came about, nor as to how it is that they exist on most but not all, of the values in the set.

When it was decided to overprint the majority of the values in the Centennial series for official use (all except the 5d and 7d were so treated) it was also apparently decided to use a new overprint which differed slightly but definitely from the standard one of the period. In the standard version, as used throughout the Second Pictorials, the letters 'ff' in the 'Official' shared the same horizontal cross-bar, and were thus joined together (see overprint type 03 in our Catalogue). In the overprint selected for the Centennial stamps, these letters each had individual cross-bars, and were thus quite separate (see overprint type 04 in C.P.). It should be noted here that this overprint — type 04 — was unique to the Centennial series; all subsequent issues overprinted Official reverted to the 'Joined ff' type.

Because of the differing formats and sheet sizes of the Centennial stamps, three separate formes were required to overprint the sheets — one, for the 2½d, of 160 stereotypes, arranged in ten rows of 16; a second, for the 1/-, of 120 stereotypes in ten rows of 12; and a third for all nine remaining values, of 120 stereotypes in twelve rows of 10.

In making up the 2½d forme, one stereo of type 03 (i.e. with the ff joined) was inadvertently included, and all sheets of the 2½d overprinted from this forme showed the variety on R4/3. The other two formes were (at this point) quite normal.

Obviously the third forme mentioned above, having to serve for the overprinting of nine values, was used much more extensively than the others, and when it began to show signs of wear, it was replaced by dismantling the 2½d forme (which was still in good condition), discarding 40 of the stereotypes, and re-assembling the remainder into a forme of 120 units (10 x 12). As it happened, the rogue 'Joined ff' stereo was not among the discards, and in sheets printed from the re-assembled forme it appeared on R1/10.

After some printings (of the ½d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d, and 8d) had been made from the reconstituted forme, the error was noticed, and the offending stereo was removed and replaced by the Government Printer. It follows from all of the above, that:

- (i) All sheets of the 2½d included the variety (on R4/3).

- (ii) Some sheets only of the ½d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d, and 8d contained the variety (on R1/10). Those sheets printed prior to the introduction of the reconstituted forme, and those printed after the error was corrected, were all quite normal.
- (iii) The variety does not exist on the 1/- (which had its own unsullied forme), nor on the 1½d and 9d (of which no overprintings were evidently made from the reconstituted forme prior to the correction of the error).
- (iv) That the usual form in which these varieties are collected is somewhat unusual in that the 2½d comes in a strip of 3 with left selvedge, while the other seven all come in vertical pairs with top selvedge.

Precise quantities overprinted and containing the variety are not known. Of course they could (and almost certainly did) vary from value to value, but in no case would they be very large. From my own experience, the 4d is without doubt the scarcest of all, while at the other end of the scale the 1d, 2½d and 3d seem to be the least scarce.

King George V 2d Surface Print. One of the best of the K.G.V plate varieties — and incidentally one of the scarcest — occurs in the form of prominent white patches on the King's neck and throat, due to damage to the horizontal lines of shading in these areas (very similar to, but much more extensive than, the well-known Face Flaw on the 3d). There is something of a mystery attaching to this 2d variety, however. According to Volume 1 of the N.Z. Handbook, a flaw of this description developed on R1/19 of Plate 31 (there were two different plates, numbered 31 and 36 in the official register, which in common with all the surface-printed issues of the time had no identification marks appearing on the issued sheets). But I have recently seen a very similar flaw which, while I can't plate it precisely, had bottom selvedge attached, and was therefore from the **bottom** row of a sheet, i.e. Row 10 (the previous owner had annotated it as R10/18). So were there not one, but two apparently identical flaws on the 2d, or is Volume 1 in error? The scarcity of examples, especially in plate-able pieces, may make this difficult to establish, but can anyone help?

1984 Catalogue Supplement. Last year the Supplement was available to U.K. subscribers rather earlier than usual. This year, through circumstances beyond our control, it is going to be somewhat later than normal. At the time of writing (mid-July) we understand the bulk shipment is at Auckland docks, awaiting a ship bound for the U.K. Apparently sea-traffic plying between NZ and UK is less frequent than it used to be, no doubt in part due to the less-close trading ties between the two countries nowadays. In any event, subscribers are assured that we shall do all we can to speed their Supplements to them when they reach us.

SOME SCARCER OFFICIALS

801	First Pictorial 3d (EO9d). Perfectly centred, and unhinged mint	£32.50
802	First Pictorial 6d (EO14g). Very fine fresh mint, centred just a fraction low	£75.00
803	First Pictorial 1/- (EO18e). Fine mint, centred a little to top	£62.50
804(a)	First Pictorial 2/- (EO20e). Superb well-centred example, unhinged mint	£100.00
(b)	As above. Another copy, just as fine but for a previous light hinge	£75.00

805	First Pictorial 5/- (EO21e). Marginal copy, brilliant colour, good centring, light hinge, and extremely fine	£167.50
806	K.E.VII 6d (HO6b). Very fine, lightly hinged. A difficult stamp	£16.50
807	K.E.VII 1/- (HO8b). Perfect unhinged mint copy	£57.50
808(a)	K.G.V 8d (KO10d). Fine lightly hinged mint	£87.50
(b)	As above. Fine used (c.d.s.)	£72.50
809(a)	K.G.V 9d (KO11a). Unhinged mint copy in the distinctive yellow-olive shade. Rare	£75.00
(b)	As above. Superb used example in sage green	£37.50
810	K.G.V 2/- Admiral (KO20b). Well-centred, fresh and unhinged mint. What more could anyone ask?	£97.50
811	1d Kiwi, Perf. 13½x14 (LO2b). Unusually well-centred copy, mint unhinged	£50.00
812(a)	9d Panel, Green Overprint (LO11c). Marginal copy, superb unhinged mint ..	£45.00
(b)	As above. Fine lightly hinged	£32.50
813(a)	9d Panel, Black Overprint (LO11e). Finest mint unhinged	£27.50
(b)	As above. Very lightly hinged mint	£22.50
814	Long Fiscal 2/-, Perf. 14½x14, Cowan Paper (ZO2j). Perfect unhinged mint	£60.00
815	Long Fiscal 5/-, Perf. 14½x14 (ZO6g). Superfine, very light hinge	£77.50
816	Long Fiscal £1, Unsurfaced Paper (ZO15f). A rare stamp. Finest mint, lightly hinged. Small expertising mark on reverse does not obtrude	£395.00
817	5/- Arms Type, Vertical Overprint (ZO33a). Fine mint (hinged), and perfectly centred. An excellent example of this high-flyer, at an excellent price (Cat. \$850, S.G. £400)	£195.00

1940 CENTENNIAL OFFICIALS — 'JOINED ff VARIETIES'

An unusually comprehensive offering of these popular and interesting varieties, which are the subject of one of this month's Bulletin notes.

818(a)	Complete Set. ½d, 1d, 2d, 2½d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 8d — the 2½d is in a marginal strip of 3, all others are in marginal pairs with a normal stamp. The set of Joined ffs, brilliant unhinged mint throughout	£225.00
(b)	As above. Another set, almost equally fine, any hingeing being very light indeed, and confined to the selvages	£185.00

Individual examples are available as follows, all in the same format as in the sets above:

(c) ½d Superb unhinged	£35.00
(d) or Very lightly hinged in selvedge only	£30.00
(e) 1d Very light selvedge hinge	£25.00
(f) 2d Superb unhinged	£35.00
(g) or Very light selvedge hinge	£30.00
(h) 2½d Superb unhinged	£30.00
(i) or Very light selvedge hinge	£25.00
(j) 3d Superb unhinged	£30.00
(k) or Very light selvedge hinge	£25.00
(l) 4d Invariably the most elusive value in the series. Very light selvedge hinge	£35.00
(m) 6d Superb unhinged	£35.00
(n) or Light selvedge hinge	£30.00
(o) 8d Superb unhinged	£35.00
(p) or Light selvedge hinge	£30.00

ROSS DEPENDENCY

819(a) 1957 Issue. Set of 4, superb unhinged mint	£15.00
(b) As above, but unhinged mint blocks of 4	£60.00
(c) As above. Unhinged mint copy of the 8d in the distinctive blue shade	£5.00
(d) As above. Block of 4 in blue, mint unhinged	£20.00
(e) As above. Finest used set of 4 (all with local Dependency c.d.s.)	£10.00
820(a) 1967 Issue. Set of 4, superb unhinged mint	£28.50
(b) As above. Set in unhinged mint marginal blocks of 4	£100.00

MISCELLANY

821 3d Full-Face Queen, Perf. 12½, Brown Lilac. A very fine used copy of this great rarity (C.P. A3d(1), S.G. 116). With clear and unqualified R.P.S.L. certificate	£450.00
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- 822 1d Second Sideface.** One of the rarest of the myriad of varieties on this stamp must be the perf. 11 issue on coarse paper with **watermark sideways** (D2pS, S.G. 237d). A mere four copies (all used) have ever been recorded, one of which we offer here. This is the only instance of any form of sideways watermark on the 1d. Not perfect condition, but appearance good, and perhaps the only chance of acquiring a near-impossible variety.
Cat. \$450 £57.50

- 823 1970 Pictorial 10c Coat of Arms.** A quite magnificent 'single value' study of this interesting stamp. Plate blocks on wmk'd paper and unwmk'd paper (both white and blue gum) are **absolutely complete**, and thus include the rare 2A2A2A3A. Plate varieties are complete, and include the unlisted **retouch** to R6/5 (light blue plate 1A). There are superb examples of all four missing colours, the No Light Blue being a particularly rare one. Other major listed varieties include Silver Offset on Back (the scarcer one on wmk'd paper) and a complete strip showing the Double Paper (Reel Join) variety. In addition there are a number of unlisted but spectacular varieties in multiples. In the counter coil issues, there are complete sets of all three issues (wmk'd, unwmk'd white gum and unwmk'd blue gum), and coil pair varieties include no. 1 with stop, pair one stamp inverted wmk, and pair both stamps inverted wmk. Individual retail is well in excess of \$3000 (£1640+) but we can offer this probably unique (and certainly unrepeatabe) collection, all finest mint, at .. £1150.00

- 824(a) 1970 Pictorial 75c Booklets.** These were printed from four special sets of plates — one set each for the 6 x 1c panes, the 3 x 1c (+ 3 advertising labels) panes, the 6 x 3c panes and the 6 x 4c panes. Each set of plates printed sheets of 25 panes (5 x 5), and thanks to some very fine research some years ago by Messrs J. Shaw and C. Capill, all individual panes can be assigned to their exact positions in the printed sheet. We have available a complete reconstruction of all four types of sheet, i.e. 25 panes from each set of plates, all correctly plated to their sheet positions. In addition, there are two extra 4c panes showing retouches to earlier flaws (examples of the flaw states are also included). Thus the complete collection runs to 102 panes, all from the original booklets on watermark paper except 2 x 3c panes, which are unwatermarked. The Booklets Reconstruction (Cat. \$250 as normal panes), supplied complete with a copy of the Shaw/Capill book £175.00

- (b) Complete 75c Booklet.** On wmk'd paper, and from sheet position no. 21, which includes (on stamp no. 4) one of the two 4c flaws known to have been retouched after some printing had been done. The beauty of this particular booklet is that the first 4c pane shows the **flaw** (quite a large one, on the leading edge of the upper front wing), while the second 4c pane shows the flaw **retouched** (W10aWc and Wd). Philatelically a remarkable and delightful combination £47.50

- 825(a) 1d Map Stamp.** A magnificent top right corner block (with sheet serial number) on the Cowan unsurfaced paper (S16c). Includes, on R1/11, the same excellent naked-eye flaw ("lake" in S.W. corner of the North Island) which appears on R6/19 in sheets on Jones paper. This is because the 240-impression plate used for the Jones printings was apparently subsequently

	'butchered', and sections of it were used to make up the 120-impression plate used for the Cowan printings. The block, mint unhinged, and of considerable specialist interest	£95.00
(b)	As above. A superfine used block of 4 on Jones paper (S16b), showing the same 'Lake' variety (on the upper left stamp) but, as explained above, from R6/19 when on this paper	£6.25
826	1946 Peace ½d. Top left corner block of 4 with complete double perforations affecting the upper pair (S39aY). Small faults visible only on back — facial appearance superb. The block	£37.50
827	1946 Peace 3d. Fine mint copy with variety Blurred Centre (S43aZ). As frequently happens with such varieties, the colour is strikingly different from the normal — in this case it is a distinctive bright blue. Cat. \$150	£52.50
828(a)	1946 Peace 5d. Another Blurred Centre variety (S45aY) — again the colour (deep bright emerald, as opposed to the normal dull drab green) is an immediate naked-eye clue to the variety. Mint unhinged — Cat. \$300	£67.50
(b)	As above. The same variety, previously hinged but fine	£52.50
829(a)	1935 Air Mail (V6a-c). Set of 3, perfect unhinged mint	£11.00
(b)	As above, but superfine used (and we really do mean superfine)	£9.00
830(a)	N.Z. Railways Newspaper Stamps. Set of 7 mint — ½d black, 1d violet, 2d deep blue, 2d pale sky blue, 3d orange-yellow, 4d rose, 6d green. 1d and 4d are fair copies only, others very fine to superb. A scarce set in mint condition	£57.50
(b)	As above. Used set of 6 (content as above, but one shade only of the 2d). Normally condition is mediocre at best — these are quite exceptionally fine ..	£15.00
831(a)	1967 Arms, Line Perf. The scarcer original issue (all with wmk. W8b). Complete set of 4, \$4 — \$10, mint unhinged (C.P. \$150, S.G. £64)	£47.50
(b)	As above. \$4 value only, unhinged mint	£7.00
(c)	As above. \$6 value only, unhinged mint	£8.25
832(a)	1968 Arms, Comb Perf. (Wmk W8a). \$4 — \$10, set of 4 mint unhinged	£24.50
(b)	As above. Superb used set	£20.00
(c)	As above. \$4 value only, superb used	£2.25
(d)	As above. \$6 value only, superb used	£3.00
(e)	As above. \$10 value only, superb used	£5.75
836 (f)	As above. The R7/19 re-entry, again in positional block — this one of 18 stamps, with perforating guide mark in right selvage. One stamp (not the variety) slightly damaged by a scissors cut, otherwise immaculate	£12.50

SECOND PICTORIALS SPECIALISED (Contd.)

833(a)	1/- Tui, Single Wmk (L12a). Single copy, mint unhinged	£12.00
(b)	As above, but lightly hinged, and fine	£8.50
(c)	As above. Corner block of 4, mint unhinged	£50.00
(d)	As above. Corner copy with variety letters Watermark. Hinged in selvage only	£17.50
(e)	As above. Plate block of 4 (pl. no. A1). Cat. \$100 but a couple of very minor gum tones, hence	£27.50
(f)	As above. Single copy, finest used	£2.00
(g)	As above. Very fine commercially used block of 8 (2 x 4), the top right stamp showing a good re-entry, with doubling of the bottom frame-line (LV12aZ). Although these frame re-entries are numerous and relatively common on later issues of the 1/-, they are scarce and seldom seen on this first issue. The block	£27.50
834(a)	1/- Tui, Mult. Wmk, Perf. 14x13½, Fine Paper (L12b). Single mint unhinged	£2.50
(b)	As above. Block of 4, mint unhinged	£10.00
(c)	As above. Plate block of 4, mint and fine	£12.50
(d)	As above. Superfine used copy	15p
(e)	As above. Fine mint block of 4 incl. R8/12 re-entry, with doubling of both top and bottom frame lines	£15.00
835(a)	1/- Tui, Perf. 12½ (L12c). Fine lightly hinged mint copy of a scarce little stamp	£8.50
(b)	As above. Superb used block of 4 (c.d.s. 27/2/42), both stamps in the lower pair showing bottom frame re-entries	£19.50
836(a)	1/- Tui, Perf. 14x13½, Coarse Paper (L12d). Mint unhinged, each	90p
(b)	As above. Marginal block of 4, unhinged mint	£3.60
(c)	As above. Plate block of 4, perforated from bottom to top of the sheet, i.e. bottom selvage not perforated through. Finest mint	£4.00
(d)	As above. Another mint plate block, but perforated from top to bottom, thus with perfs running through the bottom selvage	£4.00
(e)	As above. Corner block of 12 including the R3/9 bottom frame re-entry. Manuscript figures in the top selvage (probably put there by a P.O. counter clerk), otherwise superb, and unhinged mint	£10.50

- (g) **As above.** Marginal block of 10 (Rows 8 - 9, nos. 20 - 24) in which no less than eight of the stamps show bottom frame doubling. Three of these (R8/21, 8/22 and 9/20) are among the most outstanding of the 1/- re-entries, and R8/22 in addition has a good flaw in the form of damage to the frame lines alongside the value at left. A superb multi-variety block £20.00

- 837** **1/- Tui — An Unusual Offer.** Interest concentrated on the 2/- Capt. Cook Landing has tended to overshadow the fact that the 1/- too is a stamp that is tailor-made for the specialist. Plate varieties abound, in the forms of numerous re-entries and equally numerous retouches (mainly to the horizontal lines of background shading around the Tui), as well as one or two good flaws. We have available a bulk lot of over 350 used — apparently all multiple watermark issues, with a few Officials included — guaranteed unsorted by us for any of these varieties, and a quick sample scan assures us that no one else has picked them over either. An absolute treasure trove of fascination and fun for the philatelically minded enthusiast. The unsorted lot of 1/-'s £17.50

838

SECOND PICTORIALS, REGISTERED WATERMARK

Something we have never before been in a position to offer (nor have we seen offered anywhere else) — a complete set of the 1935-36 issues with single watermark, all **UNHINGED MINT**. Includes ½d (L1a), 3 x 1d (L2a, b, c), 3 x 1½d (L3a, b, c), 2d (L4a), 2 x 2½d (L5a, b), 3d (L6a), 4d (L7a), 2 x 5d (L8a, b), 6d (L9a), 8d (L10a), 9d (L11a), 1/- (L12a), 2 x 2/- (L13a, b), 3 x 3/- (L14a, b, c). As a small bonus, the copy of L13a has the watermark inverted. 1984 Cat. \$1225+ (=£670) as **mounted mint**. The unmounted set of 23, a superb and unrepeatable opportunity at £575.00

839

3/- MT EGMONT

The rare 1936 experimental issue with Single Wmk Inverted-and-Reversed (L14c) is the key stamp of all the Second Pictorials — only 50 sheets were ever printed. Already included in the set above, of course, but for the collector who has (almost) everything, we can offer by itself a brilliant mint copy — now Cat. \$700 = £380+ — at £295.00

RECENT ISSUES

1984 Scenic Ski-Fields 35c, 40c, 45c, 70c (issued 6/6/84).

Mint set of 4	£1.60
Set of four imprint/plate blocks of 6, one block each value	£10.85
Set of four sheet value blocks (4 stamps per block)	£7.00
Official illustrated F.D.C. (Wanganui pmk)	£1.70
Presentation Pack, colourful and attractive (post paid)	£3.00