

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

by Colin Hamilton

The 'plate and print dots' system of marking plates, as used by the Australian printers Leigh Mardon on the current N.Z. definitives, poses some baffling questions.

In some cases, the system appears perfectly logical to the observer. For instance, in the 1c - 9c Minerals, we have to date seen plate blocks with only one dot in each of the plate-dot boxes (indicating that there have been no changes of plate thus far), and with one, two and three dots in the print number boxes (indicating three separate printings from these original plates, in all values except the 5c, which is known to us only with the one-dot print number). Apparently all quite straightforward.

Not so in the 24c Map stamp, however. Alongside are tabulated all the plate/print dot combinations we have seen, **in the order in which we believe them to have been issued** (those bracketed together appeared simultaneously). In the tabulation, the first number

2 : 1 : 1

1 : 1 : 1

1 : 1 : 2

1 : 2 : 2

2 : 1 : 3

3 : 2 : 3

1 : 1 : 4

1 : 1 : 5

2 : 1 : 5

2 : 2 : 5

represents the blue plate dots, the second the green plate dots, and the third the print number.

While the sequence of issue need not necessarily be the same as that of printing, of course, in this case the regular numerical progression of the print number sequence suggests that both were in fact very much the same. But the combinations of plate numbers are by no means as easy to fathom. For example, it will be seen that among the very earliest printings, both the one-dot and two-dot blue plates were used. Later, a three-dot blue plate was brought into use; later still the one-dot blue plate was reverted to; and most recently of all the two-dot blue plate was again in use. Likewise, the one-dot and two-dot green plates have been used in a similar seemingly random way in the sequence of printings. An obvious conclusion from all of this is that the printers hold a "stock" of different plates for each colour (rather than replacing one plate, when it becomes unserviceable, with another), and that any one plate from this stock is used willy-nilly when a

new printing is required. Or does anyone have any alternative interpretation?

One final point. It will be noted that neither 1 : 1 : 3 nor 3 : 1 : 3 is included in our tabulation, although both are listed (under PA35b) in our Catalogue. We understand the printers have stated that the sheets with the 1 : 1 : 3 marking were printed and supplied, but as far as we are aware no example has ever been found. One possibility is that the stamps from these sheets

were used for the manufacture of booklets. In the case of 3 : 1 : 3, this is a printing error in the Catalogue, and should read 3 : 2 : 3.

'Super Stampex' 1985. There were just three N.Z. entries this year. David Churchill's exhibit of N.Z. Railway Stamps was awarded a Small Silver-Gilt Medal (an exceptionally high standard for a subject such as this), while Bronze-Silver Medals went to S.F. Cross-Rudkin (Chalon Heads) and to E.W. Leppard (Middle and Far East Campaigns, 1940-46). Our congratulations to all three.

KING GEORGE V RECESS-PRINTED – OFFICIALS

501(a)	3d Perf. 14x13¼ (K04a). Superfine mint copy	£4.50
(b)	As above. Fine used	95p
(c)	As above. Finest mint copy with variety Watermark Inverted (K04aX)	£11.50
(d)	As above. The same variety, but in superb mint block of 4	£45.00
502(a)	3d Perf. 14x14¼ (K04b). Fine mint copy	£4.50
(b)	As above. Fine used	80p
(c)	As above. Bottom left corner block of 4 in deep chocolate. Superfine mint	£24.50
(d)	As above. Non-marginal block of 4 in chocolate-brown. Fine	£18.00
(e)	As above. Unhinged mint example with variety Watermark Inverted (K04bY)	£12.50
503(a)	3d Two-Perf. Pair (K04c). Finest mint	£35.00
(b)	As above. Superb unhinged mint block of 4, top right stamp being the R4/12 re-entry (whether from plate 18 or 19 we have not established)	£90.00
504(a)	3d Pictorial Paper (K04d). Fine mint	£3.75
(b)	As above, but block of 4. Mint and fine	£15.00
(c)	As above. Vertical pair, lower stamp no watermark (K04dZ). Both stamps hinged, but fine and fresh	£32.50
(d)	As above. Single copy of the no wmk variety. Fine mint	£30.00
505(a)	4d Perf. 14x13¼ (K05d). Fine mint	£12.00
(b)	As above. Superb mint block of 4	£50.00
506(a)	4d Perf. 14x14¼ (K05g). Block of 4 in deep blackish purple. Brilliant unhinged mint	£97.50

(b)	As above. Another block (same shade) including two listed plate varieties — the R3/8 major re-entry and the R4/7 'Cross on crown' retouch. Again superb unhinged.	£115.00
(c)	As above. Yet another deep blackish purple block, one stamp showing an unplated but clear re-entry, with doubling of the moustache and the base of the nose. Upper pair very lightly hinged, lower pair (incl. the variety) unhinged	£97.50
(d)	As above. Superfine mint block of 4 in deep purple	£70.00
(e)	As above. Another block, same shade and fine quality, no less than three of the stamps showing clear and distinctive 'Cross on crown' retouches (R4/7, R5/8 — both of these listed varieties — and R4/8)	£87.50
(f)	As above. Set of three used, in the listed shades of deep blackish purple, deep purple and bright violet-purple. Lovely contrasts (and incidentally a useful shade reference set)	£8.50
507(a)	6d Perf. 14x13½ (K08a). Fine mint block of 4 in a beautiful bright carmine shade	£19.50
(b)	As above. Another block in a rich deep carmine. Light vertical gum crease is mentioned only for accuracy's sake — facial appearance is unblemished ..	£17.50
(c)	As above. Set of three used, selected for their striking contrasts of shade ..	£1.75
508(a)	6d Perf. 14x14½ (K08b). Three magnificent shades — carmine, deep carmine, carmine-pink — finest mint	£30.00
(b)	As above. Bottom right corner block of 4 in deep carmine. Superb mint unhinged	£40.00
509	6d Two-Perf. Pair (K08c). Superfine mint	£73.50
510(a)	8d Red-Brown (K010d). Fine mint copy, if fractionally off-centre	£60.00
(b)	As above. Good used (c.d.s.)	£57.50
(c)	As above. Glorious fresh mint block of 4, very lightly hinged on upper pair only, and beautifully centred. Rare	£612.50
511(a)	9d Perf. 14x13½ (K011a). Superb unhinged mint example	£47.50
(b)	As above. Superfine used (c.d.s.)	£35.00
(c)	As above. Brilliant mint block of 4 in pale sage-green	£195.00
(d)	As above. Another mint block, but in deep sage. Not quite so fine as the previous item, but in appearance certainly its equal	£150.00
512	1/- Perf. 14x13½ (K012a). Two superb shades of vermillion and orange-vermillion. Fine mint	£23.50

513(a)	1/- Perf. 14x14 (K012b). Marginal unhinged mint copy in the pale and distinctive salmon shade	£30.00
(b)	As above. Complete used set of the four listed shades (used 'salmons' are particularly scarce — the copy included here is superfine)	£30.00
(c)	As above. Perfect unhinged mint block of 4 in the deep rich vermilion shade (rare in this perf.). A showpiece	£160.00
(d)	As above. Very fine mint block of 4 in a bright orange-vermilion	£35.00
514(a)	1/- Two-Perf. Pair (K012c). Superfine mint pair in vermilion	£115.00
(b)	As above. Block of 4 in the same shade. Very fine	£210.00
(c)	As above. Pair in orange-vermilion. Finest mint	£82.50

"THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF NEW ZEALAND"

The incomparable series of Handbooks, published over the years by the R.P.S.N.Z. in limited editions. Full of essential information for the specialist/student, and collector's items in themselves.

515	Volume 1. An excellent copy of the key volume of the series. Inner back binding cracked, otherwise virtually as new, and complete with photographic prints	£325.00
516	Volume 2. Complete with special die prints in colour, and immaculate	£80.00
517	Volume 4. Again immaculate	£135.00
518	Volume 5. The 'Dependencies' bible. Superb condition	£160.00
519	Volume 6. The most recent in the series (although preparation of Volume 7 is well in hand, no date of publication has been announced). As new	£60.00

1d UNIVERSALS (Contd.)

520(a)	Cowan Unwatermarked Paper. Superfine mint block of 4, perf. 14 (G4a) in carmine	£35.00
(b)	As above. Mixed perfs. (G4d). Very fine mint copy, showing official patching on the back	£95.00
521(a)	Cowan Watermarked Paper. Three mint blocks of 4, perf. 14 (G5a), in beautiful shade contrasts ranging from carmine through pink-carmine to pale carmine-pink (the last is a corner block with sheet serial number)	£22.50
(b)	As above. Superfine mint vertical pair with major variety Imperf. Horizontally (G5aY) — incidentally wrongly listed in S.G. as imperf. between	£100.00

(c)	As above. Fine used copy with variety Watermark Reversed (G5aV)	£30.00
(d)	As above, but variety Watermark Inverted-and-Reversed. Fine used	£12.50
(e)	As above. Stamps on this paper, from the First Local Plates, and perf. 11 (G5b) are one of the great 1d Universal rarities. Single copies are seldom seen, multiples of any size are virtually unknown. Here offered in mint pair — one stamp has a few short perfs, otherwise fine	£725.00
522(a)	Reserve Plate (G6a). Set of 6 dated used copies from the now-recognised six different periods of use of this plate (1902, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1908, 1909)	£30.00
(b)	As above. Probably the most difficult of all the 'basic' 1d Universals to find in mint condition, yet here it is, in perfect uninged block of 4	£112.50
(c)	As above. A magnificent and very rare corner block of 25, including the R3/5 and 5/4 re-entries. Condition outstandingly fine	£675.00
(d)	As above. Very fine c.d.s. used copy (dated 1908) of the excessively rare perf. 11 'Reserve' (G6b). Curiously unlisted in S.G. Part 1 (although all other perf. variations of the Reserve Plate issues appear in that catalogue)	£525.00
(e)	As above. Fine mint example of another Reserve Plate rarity — perf. 11x14 (G6c)	£375.00
(f)	As above. Very fine mint copy with mixed perfs. (G6d) — in this case originally perf. 14 all round, re-perfed 11 at foot. With official patching ...	£200.00
523(a)	Dot Plates (G8a). Mint block of 8 (2x4) from plate 1, including no less than four re-entries (R4/11, 5/11, 6/11, 7/11). In addition to its major re-entry, R4/11 also has the value tablet frame clearly retouched. Small faults on two stamps, otherwise superb	£27.50
(b)	As above. Two mint blocks of 4 (both early, relatively unworn prints) in gorgeous shade contrasts — one deep carmine, the other bright aniline with a distinct magenta tone. Fine	£25.00
(c)	As above. Registered cover to Tasmania from Feilding, bearing two singles and a vertical pair (all Dot plates). The pair has part of the bottom selvage attached — sufficient to show a full two-thirds of the very rare three-dot plate marking. Probably unique on cover	£72.50
524(a)	Waterlow Trial Plates. Proof block of 9, printed in black on thin card, and imperf., from rows 1, 2 and 3 of plate W1. Very scarce	£77.50
(b)	As above. Similar proof, but in block of 4, from rows 4 and 5	£35.00
(c)	As above. Mint copy with mixed perfs. vertically (G9e). The original horizontal perfs are almost as badly misplaced as the verticals, and re-perfing in this direction would have been fully justified too, but it wasn't done, and the result is a very off-centre stamp. Nevertheless, a chance to fill an expensive gap inexpensively at, only (Cat. \$1000)	£37.50

(d)	As above. Exceptionally fine used copy with mixed perfs.	£250.00
525(a)	Royle Plates (G10a). Corner block of 4 with sheet serial number. Stamps superb mint unhinged	£10.00
(b)	As above. Set of 4 mint blocks of 4 in a breathtaking range of shades from rose-carmine through to the incredibly rich and deep blood-red. Lovely! ..	£57.50
(c)	As above. Marginal block in the blood-red shade. Mint unhinged	£40.00
(d)	As above. Bottom marginal pair with plate number R2 and selvedge arrow. Fine	£42.50
(e)	As above. Perfect unhinged mint copy in the scarce perf. 11 (G10b)	£115.00
(f)	As above. Fine mint copy, perf. 14x11 (G10c)	£50.00
(g)	As above. Another 14x11 example, good looker, but one or two perf. tones, hence	£20.00
(h)	As above. Superb mint pair with mixed perfs. 11 and 14 vertically (G10e)	£125.00
(i)	As above. Top marginal block of 4 with comb perf. 14x14½ (G10f). Centred high, but beautifully fresh unhinged mint	£45.00
526(a)	1d Universal Surface Print (G11). Die proof (frame uncleared) printed in black on glazed white card (45mm x 60mm). Rare	£125.00
(b)	As above. Two plate proof blocks of 4, imperf., on thick card – one printed in black, the other in carmine. The two blocks	£45.00
527(a)	Trial Slot Machine Issues. A superb piece from the first 'Dickie' machine of June 1905 – a strip of 4 Dot plates stamps with roulettes 9½ at each end, and mid-coil butted join between the central pair (these early slot machine rolls were made up of a series of strips from large sheets – with a couple of notable exceptions (the 1d and 3d "custom-made" coils of 1963) this method of manufacture has continued unchanged). The mint strip (GS1a), Cat. C.P. \$1000, S.G. £480	£250.00
(b)	As above. Commercially used copy, again rouletted 9½ at both sides. Light vertical crease (invisible on face), hence	£40.00
(c)	As above. Fine mint copy from the second 'Dickie' machine of July 1905, with roulettes 14½ at both sides (GS2a)	£80.00
(d)	As above. Similar example, but has been used to receipt a document, and with beautifully contemporary manuscript date 12/7/05. Most unusual	£22.50
(e)	As above. Single copy, no roulettes (so could be from either of the first two issues). Perfect unhinged mint	£50.00
(f)	As above. Third 'Dickie' machine, March 1906 – Reserve plate stamp (GS3a), fine mint	£52.50

(g)	As above. From the 'Parker' machine of June 1906. Reserve plate stamp with two small pinholes (GS4a). Good mint copy	£52.50
(h)	As above. Another example, fine unused, no gum	£20.00
(i)	As above, but without pinholes (GS4b). Fine appearance, but no gum, and thinned, hence	£7.50
(j)	As above. From the 'Dickie & Brown' machine of January 1906 (GS5a). Very fine mint, but centred left	£50.00
(k)	As above. Similar copy, but no gum	£15.00

528

RARE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR MARKING

Q.V. 1d Postal stationery envelope front (with 2 x 1d Universal adhesives added), addressed to Queensland, with three fine complete strikes of the circular MILITARY CAMP TE PAPAPA NZ/FREE marking, used as a canceller. This Camp was open only from 6th Feb. - 19th March 1902. Markings are recorded in blue only in Vol. 3 of the N.Z. Handbook — these are impressed in purple. Rather tatty, but fine examples of a rare mark

£17.50

FISCALS

529	Land and Deeds/Law Courts. An unusual lot of these issues, incl. Land & Deeds 1/- (3 large design, 1 small), 2/- (7), 6/-, 10/- (2), 15/- (2) and Law Courts 5/-, 10/-	£15.00
530	Long Fiscals. Substantial lot of 75 with values from 1d (incl. one mint) to £1 (8), £2 (2) and £10. Absolutely unchecked for papers, perfs. and wmk. Mainly fiscal usage, but some appear postally used. Condition well above average for these	£52.50

KING GEORGE VI (Contd.)

As usual, full descriptions provided where necessary.

531(a)	1½d Chocolate (M4a). Two fine mint shades, both upright watermark	£7.50
(b)	As above. Two similar shades, but used	£2.50
(c)	As above. Used booklet pane of 6, watermark upright, but without binding selvedge	£5.00
(d)	As above. Unmounted mint booklet pane, watermark inverted (Cat. \$95), but also without binding selvedge, hence	£22.50
(e)	As above. Three mint shades, all inverted watermark	£17.50
(f)	As above. A similar set of 3 shades, inverted wmk but used	£4.50

532(a) 1½d Chocolate Official (M04a). The key value of the KG VI Official series, extremely elusive in mint condition. One of each available as follows:—	
(i) Unmounted mint block of 4	£135.00
(ii) Unmounted mint single	£35.00
(iii) Mounted mint	£22.50
(b) As above. Two superb shades, both used	£20.00
533(a) 1½d Rose-Red, Fine Paper (M4b). Two attractive shades, mint blocks of 4	
	£4.00
(b) As above. Two similar shades, mint singles	£1.00
(c) As above. Complete set of plate markings, plate nos. 20 and 21 in blocks of 4 (each in right and left selvedge), and imprint block of 8. Five blocks (24 stamps), mint	£15.00
(d) As above. Two mint marginal blocks of 4, with perforation guide holes in both RH and LH selvedge (one block includes the R5/1 re-entry)	£6.00
(e) As above. For the collector who appreciates used multiples — a used block of 24 (4 x 6)	£10.00
(f) As above. Mint marginal block of 9, including the C.P. listed plate 20 'second state retouch', on R8/18 — MV4b(a)	£12.50
(g) As above. Marginal block of 15, plate 20, including R5/5 variety, mint	£10.00
(h) As above. Mint marginal pair, including R8/1 re-entry from plate 21	£4.00
534(a) 1½d Rose-Red, Coarse Paper (M4c). Three attractive shades, each in mint block of 4	
	£4.00
(b) As above. Three similar shades, mint singles	£1.00
(c) As above. Set of 3 different papers, thin to thick, all mint	£3.75
(d) As above. Plate/imprint blocks, including plate nos. 20, 21, 129, 130, 131, 137 (needs only nos. 132 and 136 for completion). 40 mint stamps — the plate 129 block includes the Catalogued R9/22 retouch, MV4c(c)	£22.50
(e) As above. Another large used multiple, block of 24 (4 x 6) matching lot 533(e) above	£7.50
(f) As above. Positional mint block of 24 (8 x 3), includes imprint/plate 20 and the R8/18 second state retouch, MV4c(a). Rare in such a proving piece	£17.50
(g) As above. Marginal block of 12 including the plate 21, R4/10 retouch, MV4c(b), mint	£7.50
(h) As above. The first two vertical columns from plate 21 (on this paper the plate numbers have been transferred from the side selvedge to the bottom selvedge below the imprint — although a small trace of the original number can still be seen alongside R4/1), showing R5/1 and 8/1 re-entries	£15.00