

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN

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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

by Colin Hamilton

1940 Centennial 9d. The plate made for the (orange) frame of this value was numbered 1, and it was used in combination with two different centre plates, identified by the letters A and B respectively. In the B1 combination, the '1' is of unusual and not widely known interest, which is only hinted at in the reference books.

Volume 2 of the N.Z. Handbook states (on page 106): "After the frame plate had been in use for some time the number showed signs of wear and it was recut." That rather brief and bald statement is, however, only partly true. Certainly the number showed signs of wearing — even in the earliest printings in combination with the centre plate B it was notably weak — but the evidence of plate blocks extant indicates that the figure was never recut, or at least that no sheets were issued in the latter state.

The C.P. Catalogue lists Plate B1 in two forms: (i) with the figure in its original form; and (ii) with a new figure 1 inserted in a second printing. This listing does conform with the evidence. But even so it does not make clear two other remarkable facts. Firstly, the new figure is **surface-printed** (whereas the original plates were of the recess type); and secondly, the new figure appears in two distinctly different positions. In one of these, it is superimposed almost exactly on the site of the original figure '1', with the upper point of the number directly below the 'S' of SURREY in the printer's imprint. In the other, the new figure lies to the right of this position, with the upper point of the 1 below RR of SURREY.

As a result, plate blocks in no less than eight different states are known to us, as follows:

1. Original figure 1 weak but readable. No other markings (This is the state we list as the original form in the Catalogue).
2. Original figure crudely redrawn on the sheet, plus new figure to the right (only one example of this is known to us).
3. Original figure erased on the sheet (the surface of the paper is disturbed, leaving a slightly thinned area), plus new figure to the right. Very scarce, only one or possibly two examples have been seen.
4. As (1), plus new figure to the right.
5. Traces only of the original figure, plus new figure to the right.
6. Traces only of the original figure, plus new figure on site of the original.

7. No trace of the original figure, plus new figure to the right.
8. No trace of the original figure, plus new figure on site of the original.

Reports of any other states would be of interest, in particular any blocks with the new figure in positions differing from the two described earlier.

Q.E. Officials — A Query. For the thirty years since the first of these issues appeared in 1954, sheets have been recorded as being of 240 stamps arranged in ten horizontal rows of 24, i.e. of exactly the same format as the contemporary low-value ($\frac{1}{2}$ d — 8d) definitives.

Recently, however, I have heard of (but have not seen) a half-sheet — of the $2\frac{1}{2}$ d on 2d surcharge — consisting of **12 rows of 10 stamps**. This clearly, would mean that complete sheets, while still made up of 240 units, would be in **twelve horizontal rows of 20**. Although no blocks of sufficient size were available to confirm this, I have since examined a corner block of the 4d which, while it doesn't actually prove anything, suggests that the 12-rows-of-20 format may indeed have been the standard. My block (of 60 stamps, i.e. a quarter-sheet) was in the form 10 x 6. Had it come from a 24 x 10 sheet, one would expect such a block (without varieties, so not specially preserved for positional purposes) to be 12 x 5. On the other hand, it seems odd that sheets of the ordinary definitives and the Officials should be of a different format, bearing in mind that the stamps were of the same size by the same printers, and exact contemporaries.

It shouldn't be impossible to find suitable proving pieces to settle the question beyond doubt. Can anyone help?

SECOND PICTORIALS SPECIALISED (Contd.)

The concluding part of the 2/- listing.

1001(a) 2/- Capt. Cook, Perf 12½, Coarse Paper (L13f). R9/2 'Hills' retouch. Fine commercially used	£8.50
(b) As above. Superfine mint plate block of 4 (which of course includes the R9/2 retouch on the upper right stamp)	£32.50
(c) As above. Commercially used copy with variety Double Print One Albino (L13fZ) — easily identifiable by the very marked all-over blurring of the design, exactly as if the printing had been done on blotting paper. Scarce (Cat. \$65), but some creasing allows	£10.00
(d) As above. A magnificent block of 12 (6x2) from the bottom right corner of a sheet, showing the plate cracks which subsequently necessitated the extensive re-entering of this area of the plate. Superfine mint	£95.00
(e) As above. Marginal block of 8 (Rows 9 and 10, Nos. 7 - 10) from the late state of the plate. Five of the eight impressions in the block are re-entries; under a glass, all five show extensive doubling of the designs, but the immediate naked-eye impact of the block is the contrast between five dark (re-entered) stamps, and the three light (un-re-entered) ones. A striking piece, superfine mint	£60.00
(f) As above. An identical block, but stamps overprinted Official (LO13f)	£95.00
(g) As above. Superb mint block of 4 including the major re-entries on R5/5 and 6/4 (like all such varieties on the 2/- these are true re-entries, having been executed after printings had been made from the plate). The double variety block	£35.00

(h)	As above. Another block, finest mint, including the R4/12 and 5/12 re-entries. In this case, the re-entries were co-incident with the original impressions, so there is no doubling, but both of the variety stamps are notably darker and heavier than their neighbours. The block	£30.00
(i)	As above. Single mint copy showing a typical major re-entry. Finest mint ..	£9.75
(j)	As above. Very fine mint pair, overprinted Official (LO13f), including the major R3/8 re-entry. Apart from the very clear doubling at the left hand side, this stamp is of extra interest since it could easily be mistaken for a plate 3 copy (the rigging not having been retouched after re-entry). The pair	£27.50
1002(a)	2/- Perf. 13½x13½, Coarse Paper (L13g). Finest mint copy from plate 1	£5.25
(b)	As above, but from Plate 2	£3.25
(c)	As above, but from plate 3	£4.25
(d)	As above. Used copies: plate 1 £1.25; plate 2 25p; plate 3	50p
(e)	As above. Plate block of 4 (pl. no. 1). Includes R9/2 'Hills' retouch. Mint, hinged	£37.50
(f)	As above. Another pl. no. 1 block, but of six stamps, thus including the R8/2 'Coconuts' retouch, as well as R9/2	£55.00
(g)	As above. Plate block of 4, pl. no. 2	£25.00
(h)	As above. Plate block of 4, pl. no. 3	£32.50
(i)	As above. Set of three plate blocks of 4, plate nos. 1, 2 and 3, complete. Special price	£85.00
(j)	As above. R1/4 COOK flaw (LV13aT). Scarce in this issue. Unhinged mint	£25.00
(k)	As above. Unhinged mint copy from plate 2 with major variety Double Print One Albino (L13gY)	£42.50
(l)	As above. Good commercially used copy from plate 3 with variety Double Print, One Albino (L13gV)	£32.50
(m)	As above. Marginal block of 8 (from plate 1 late re-entered state) matching lot 1001(e) above (q.v.) in all respects except of course perforation	£60.00
(n)	As above. R3/8 major re-entry (from pl. 1, but stamp has plate 3 rigging characteristics), in mint pair with normal	£23.50
(o)	As above. Finest mint block of 4 including R5/5 and 6/4 major re-entries ...	£35.00
(p)	As above. Single mint, showing typical major re-entry from pl. 1	£9.75

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|---|--------|
| (q) As above. Corner strip of 4 (full selvages) comprising R10/9 – 12, all stamps re-entries, three showing major doubling, one minor. Fine mint | £32.50 |
| (r) As above. R9/2 'Hills' retouch (LV13gX). Mint, minor gum tone spot, fine appearance | £10.00 |

To be continued.

KING GEORGE V – THE RECESS PRINTS

Concluding the fine list of offers we began last month.

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| 1003(a) 4d Violet. Plate block of 4 (pl. no. 20), in dull violet, showing marked plate wear. Cat. \$150, but stamps centred right, and block has no side selvedge, hence | £33.50 |
| (b) As above. Mint block of 4 in bright violet, including the major R1/6 re-entry (KV5d(a)). Perfs. reinforced by hinge at top centre, otherwise fine | £44.25 |
| (c) As above. Another bright violet block, perf. 14 x 13½, bottom right stamp showing an unlisted minor re-entry, with doubling to the right of the moustache. Superfine mint | £27.50 |
| (d) As above. Bottom selvedge block of 4, perf. 14 x 14½ (K5e), bright shade, unhinged mint | £45.00 |
| (e) As above. Two-perf. pair (K5f), bright reddish violet. Mint unhinged | £35.00 |
| (f) As above. Two-perf. block of 4, same bright reddish shade. Superb appearance, but tiny gum-thin on one stamp allows | £40.00 |
| (g) As above. Two-perf. pair in deep bright violet. Finest mint | £30.00 |
| (h) As above. Two-perf. pair in dull violet (notably scarcer in this shade). Superfine mint | £45.00 |
| (i) As above. Another dull violet pair, but this one fine commercially used and with the R4/10 re-entry (KV5f(a)). Rare! | £67.50 |
| (j) As above. Yet another dull violet two-perf. pair, sound commercially used, but without the re-entry | £26.50 |
| (k) As above. Mint two-perf. block of 4, lovely full deep bright colour shows off the R4/10 'Club Foot' re-entry to perfection. Insignificant gum tones do not detract | £47.50 |
| 1004(a) 4d Deep Purple, Perf. 14x14½ (K5g). Plate block of 4 (pl. no. 44) with full corner selvedge. Deep blackish shade. Mint unhinged | £57.50 |
| (b) As above. Fine mint (hinged) block of 4 in blackish violet | £42.50 |
| (c) As above. Similar block, but in purple | £26.50 |

	(d) As above. Superb block in the rare deep bright violet shade. Mint unhinged	£220.00
	(e) As above. Another block in the same rare shade, this one showing a very pronounced lateral step in the perfs — almost certainly evidence of a two-perf. operation, using the same head (stamps should therefore be plate-able to Rows 5 and 6). The block, very fine mint (Cat. \$480 as singles)	£155.00
1005	4d Deep Purple, Perf. 14x13½ (K5h). Fine mint block of 4 (upper pair hinged) in deep black-purple. Stamps in this perf. from plate 44 are very scarce, and blocks are specially desirable	£110.00
1006(a)	4½d Deep Green. Unhinged mint plate block of 4 (pl. no. 21). Stamps centred fractionally to top right, otherwise sheer perfection	£67.50
	(b) As above. Top marginal block, centring very similar to the previous item — again superb unhinged mint	£52.50
	(c) As above. Another block, perf. 14x13½, perfectly centred, and almost imperceptibly hinged. Beautiful!	£55.00
	(d) As above. Two-perf. block of 4 (K6c), very fine mint	£87.50
	(e) As above. Two-perf. pair, superb appearance but tiny gum-thin upper stamp, hence only	£20.00
1007(a)	5d Blue. Superb mint block of 4, perf. 14x14½ (K7b) in the blue shade — scarce in this perf. Very lightly hinged. Cat. \$180	£77.50
	(b) As above. Lovely set of three blocks in the listed shades of blue (unhinged, centred a little left), pale ultramarine (marginal unhinged), and steel blue (slight defects). Cat. \$420, offered at	£132.50
	(c) As above. Two-perf. pair (K7c) in pale ultramarine, perfect unhinged mint	£45.00
	(d) As above. Two-perf. block of 4, brilliant pristine mint appearance, but one or two tone spots on gum only allow (Cat. \$200)	£45.00
	(e) As above. Two perf. pair, superb used	£44.50
1008(a)	6d Carmine. Marginal block of 4 in carmine, perf. 14x13½ (K8a). Insignificant surface abrasions on one stamp, otherwise very fine mint	£22.50
	(b) As above. Another marginal block, but perf. 14x14½ (K8b), and in the carmine-pink shade, with overall tinting of the paper surface (apparently a deliberate act by the printers to 'hide' the loss of detail due to plate wear). Condition superfine mint, and a delight to the eye	£45.00
	(c) As above. Yet another marginal item — this is a two-perf. pair (K8c) in deep carmine pink. Perfect unhinged mint too!	£90.00
	(d) As above. Two perf. pair in bright carmine. Both stamps hinged, but very fine mint	£47.50

(e) As above. Two-perf. block of 4 in a deep bright carmine shade. Upper pair hinged, lower pair unhinged — a beautiful block	£115.00
(f) As above. Used two-perf. block of 4, with complete strike of contemporary (1917) c.d.s. of Waerengaahika — this office was closed in 1942, incidentally. Rounded perf. at bottom right corner, otherwise superb genuine used	£132.50
(g) As above. Glorious block of 4 on 'Pictorial' paper, perf. 14 (K8d). Nicely centred (difficult thus), fresh, lightly hinged on upper pair	£44.50
1009(a) 7½d Deep Red-Brown. Used block of 4, perf. 14x13½ (K9a). Centred a little right, light but indistinct parcel cancel. Scarce!	£17.50
(b) As above. Superb mint block of 4, perf. 14x14½ (K9b) — scarcer perf. in this value. Upper pair very lightly hinged	£66.50
(c) As above. Marginal two-perf. block of 4 (K9c), superfine mint	£85.00
(d) As above. Fine commercially used two-perf. pair	£45.00
1010(a) 8d Indigo-Blue. Finest mint block of 4, perf. 14x13½ (K10a)	£45.00
(b) As above. Similarly fine block, perf. 14x14½ (K10b)	£45.00
(c) As above. Two-perf. pair (K10c), perfect mint unhinged	£32.00
(d) As above. Two-perf. block of 4, upper stamps hinged, but very fine	£55.00
1011(a) 8d Red-Brown. Superfine mint block of 4, red-chocolate shade	£66.50
(b) As above. Another block in the magnificently contrasting red-brown. Several previous hinges, but fine and fresh	£55.00
1012(a) 9d Sage-Green. Block of 4, perf. 14 x 13½ (K11a) in a delicate pale sage shade, with a distinct yellowish tinge. Tiny gum-thin on one stamp does not detract, except from the price (Cat. \$160)	£45.00
(b) As above. The only single stamps in the entire listing, but what a set, of no less than six different shades (all perf. 14x13½), ranging from sage green through deep yellow-olive to pale olive-yellow, and all mint. Delectable!	£115.00
(c) As above. Superlative mint block of 4 perf. 14x14½ (K11b)	£77.50
(d) As above. Two-perf. pair (K11c), superb mint, light hinge	£65.00
(e) As above. Two-perf. block of 4, finest mint (upper pair hinged)	£120.00
(f) As above. Another two-perf. pair, fine commercially used with parcels cancel dated 1922 — your guarantee of genuine usage	£45.00
1013(a) 1/- Vermilion. Exceptionally fine mint block, perf. 14x13½ (K12a) in vermilion. Lightest hinge on one stamp only	£77.50

(b) As above. Marginal block, perf. 14x14½ (K12b) in pale orange-vermilion. All stamps perfect unhinged mint	£77.50
(c) As above. Another block in an even paler shade than the previous item. Very light hinge at top	£55.00
(d) As above. Two-perf. pair (K12c) in vermilion. Very light hinge both stamps, hence	£52.50
(e) As above. Two-perf. block of 4 in a full rich deep vermilion. Quite outstanding — fine fresh mint (upper pair hinged)	£137.50

MISCELLANY

1014(a) 1d Universal Booklets. Complete pane of 6 (W2cY), plus a complete set of covers/interleaving from a 1908 2/0½d booklet (W2c). All in absolutely superb condition — the pane itself (from position no. 6, incidentally) is brilliantly fresh unhinged mint	£240.00
(b) As above. Complete pane overprinted OFFICIAL (WO2aZ), from position no. 1. Finest mint	£30.00
(c) As above. Another OFFICIAL pane, this one from position no. 10. Super-fine mint, with just the barest hint of a previous hinge in the binding selvage	£32.50
1015 1960 Pictorials, Chalky Paper. Complete set of 7 values (1d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 2/-, 5/-, 10/-) on the change of paper. Seldom offered as a complete set, the 4d being the rarity that is almost invariably missing — the copy included here carries our unconditional guarantee, of course. The set of 'chalkies', superb unhinged mint	£167.50
1016 1920 Victory. Set of 7 (incl. 2d surcharge), unused. Not-so-fine condition, but a good space filling set	£9.50

RECENT ISSUES

1984 Healths (Horses) 24c + 2c two stamps se-tenant, 30c + 2c (issued 1/8/84).

Mint set of 3	60p
Complete set of 4 imprint/plate blocks, two each value (24c blocks of 8, 30c blocks of 6)	£5.75
One imprint/plate block each value	£3.00
Miniature Sheet (2 sets se-tenant)	£1.20
Illustrated F.D.C. (Wanganui pmk)	70p
Set of 7 Health Camp Postmarks (post paid)	£6.50

GREAT BRITAIN BARGAIN OFFERS, USED

No, we have no intention of departing from our long-established 'N.Z. only' policy, but as a one-off exception we can make the following extremely attractive offers, **all finest postally used** (not c.t.o.). In most cases, any individual set, or even any individual value, can be supplied at similar advantageous prices.

COMMEMORATIVES

GB1	1971 issues complete, Ulster Paintings — Christmas, 5 sets (16 stamps). SG £10.85	£4.25
GB2	1972 issues complete, Explorers — Silver Wedding, 6 sets (21 stamps). SG £13.70	£5.75
GB3	1973 issues complete, E.E.C. — Christmas, 9 sets (30 stamps). SG £13.40 ...	£5.75
GB4	1974 issues complete, Tree — Christmas, 6 sets (21 stamps). SG £9.60	£4.00
GB5	1975 issues complete, Charity — Christmas except Sailing, 7 sets (23 stamps). SG £7.70	£3.25
GB6	1976 issues complete Telephone — Christmas, 7 sets (25 stamps). SG £8.50	£3.50
GB7	1977 issues complete Racket Sports — Christmas, 6 sets (25 stamps). SG £6.25	£2.75
GB8	1978 issues complete, Energy — Christmas, 6 sets (24 stamps). SG £6.55 ...	£2.95
GB9	1979 issues complete, Dogs — Christmas, 8 sets (33 stamps). SG £8.35	£3.50
GB10	1980 issues complete, Wild Birds — Christmas, 9 sets (33 stamps). SG £10.20	£4.00
GB11	1981 issues complete, Folklore — Christmas, 8 sets (32 stamps). S.G. £13 ..	£5.50
GB12	1982 issues complete, Darwin — Christmas, 8 sets (32 stamps). SG £15.25	£6.50
GB13	1983 Issues complete, River Fishes — Christmas, 7 sets (29 stamps). SG £12.30	£5.25

REGIONAL DEFINITIVES

GB14	Northern Ireland 1971-83 series. One of each value 2½p — 28p complete except 4½p. Set of 28. SG £8.87	£4.50
GB15	Scotland 1971-83 series. One of each value 2½p — 28p complete except 8p. Set of 28. SG £8.99	£4.50
GB16	Wales 1971-83 series. One of each value 2½p — 28p complete. Set of 29. SG £9.51	£4.75
GB17	Isle of Man 1971 set of 4 complete, 2½p — 7½p. SG £3	£1.75