

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

by Colin Hamilton

1d Universal — the Waterlow Trial Plates of 1906. When the 'Dot' plates of 1904 needed to be replaced due to serious wear, Messrs Royle and Sons (who had supplied the Dot plates) and Waterlow Brothers & Layton were each invited to submit two new plates, in order to test, by direct comparison in use, the wearing qualities of the two firms' products. These became known collectively as the Trial Plates.

The method employed by Waterlow in laying down their two plates (which were numbered W1 and W2 respectively) was an abnormal one. The usual procedure — and that followed, incidentally, in the making of all the other thirteen recess plates from which the 1d Universal was printed — was to roll in each individual impression separately (it should be noted, however, that this did not necessarily involve using the same transfer-roller impression throughout any one plate. There were in fact several instances of the use of at least two different transfer-roller impressions in the production of a single plate).

In this case, Waterlow first produced a subsidiary die consisting of five impressions, arranged in a vertical row, the spacing between each being precisely that required on the plates themselves. This group of impressions was then taken up on a transfer roller, which was used to roll in strips of five at a time. The plates being of a standard size (10 horizontal rows of 24), the number of operations of the roller required to lay down each plate was thus reduced from 240 to just 48.

Each of the impressions on the transfer roller had its own unique characteristics, and this resulted in stamps from the issued sheets (whether printed from W1 or W2) being readily classifiable into five distinct types. For convenience, these are usually designated Types a — e. Type 'a' occurred in the first and sixth horizontal rows; Type 'b' in the second and seventh rows; Type 'c' in the third and eighth rows; Type 'd' in the fourth and ninth rows; and Type 'e' in the fifth and tenth rows. Since any 'Waterlow' stamp can be equally readily assigned to one or other of the two plates, these differences are ideally shown in a set of ten stamps (i.e. the five types from each plate).

Within the 'Waterlow' printings is to be found an absolute profusion of the classic varieties of recess-printing — re-entries and retouches. Plate W1 is particularly prolific in the former, something over fifty stamps in the sheet (or nearly a quarter of the total) showing doubling in some degree. Just over thirty of these are generally considered to merit listing and description; in many cases the doubling is major, and in the best it is quite outstanding, with complete duplication of extensive areas of the design. It might be argued that the technique employed in laying down the plate, as described above, accounts in large measure for the apparently inordinately high number of these

varieties, for if one stamp shows doubling, any or all of the others in the particular group of five to which it belongs may also show doubling. (Rows 6 – 10, No. 18 form the outstanding example of this peculiarity, all five stamps in the group showing major and virtually identical doubling. As mentioned in the C.P. Catalogue, each of these “identical quintuplets” is easily identified one from the other, by reference to its Type characteristics.) If, however, the 32 listed examples of re-entry doubling are analysed and allocated to their groups, the result is even more astounding, for one finds that no less than 15 of the 48 groups, or almost one third of the total, are involved.

In Plate W2, a mere six re-entries are recorded (from just four groups), but major retouches are legion, many being easily seen without the use of a glass. Evidently the impressions on this plate, despite being more deeply impressed than those on W1, showed marked weaknesses at the left of the design, for this is where the major repair work is to be found, especially to the left outlines of the rosette and the ornamentation in upper and lower thirds of the left border, and the left vertical outer frame of the value panel. Plate W2 also has the variety “No Sea Under Globe”. This occurs at four different but constant positions on the sheet – R1/16, 1/23, 6/15 and 6/18, the last of these also showing a major re-entry. In all four cases, there are actually small traces of the sea shading lines present, but they are all prominent and attractive varieties.

It will be apparent from these notes that the production of these Trial Plates proved to be something of a ‘trial’ for Messrs Waterlow, and seemingly they failed to impress the N.Z. authorities, for it was Royle & Sons who were invited to supply two further plates (the 3-dot and 4-dot). But what a rich legacy they provided for the philatelist!

PENNY UNIVERSALS

A further selection of offers from the Tombleson collection, with the emphasis this month on used –and chock-full of supreme specialist stuff!

- | | | |
|------------|---|--------|
| 301 | London Plate Re-Entries. Complete collection of all 14 listed re-entries, each accompanied by a photostatic enlargement of the design with the doubled areas clearly indicated in red. All stamps are fine used copies, with the one exception of R9/3, which is mint. A superb and unrepeatable lot .. | £92.50 |
| 302 | Pirie Paper, Perf. 11 (G2a). Lovely used set of the four listed shades – carmine, deep carmine, carmine-lake and deep carmine-lake. Quite magnificent contrasts | £22.50 |
| 303 | Basted Mills Paper. A peculiarity of the issues on this paper is that the double-lined N.Z. and Star watermark is frequently found in all the variations of the ‘normal’ upright form. We can offer a set of four, all perf. 14 (G3b), showing the watermark upright, inverted, reversed and inverted-and-reversed respectively. The used watermark set, specially selected for centring and general condition | £10.00 |
| 304 | Plate Wear – ‘Local’ and ‘Dot’ Plates. In both of these issues (G5, G8), the plates (before they were withdrawn from use) became so badly worn that the stamps were a travesty of the originals. In the last printings, all but the most deeply engraved lines of the designs had disappeared. Our set of five used copies of each clearly shows this progressive and rapid deterioration. An inexpensive and highly spectacular set (10 stamps) | £3.50 |

- 305(a) Dot Plates Retouches.** There are a number of instances of retouching in 'Dot' stamps, mainly to the left rosette and to the left and right hand ends of the value panel. These were generally rather crudely done, (and therefore readily seen). Our set of three used show typical examples, selected for their clarity £7.50
- (b) **As above.** A total of 10 impressions (all on plate 1) had the left rosette re-touched (several of these also had attention given to the value panel). All 10 varieties are included in the set we offer here. Wonderful material! £37.50
- 306(a) Waterlow Trial Plates – Reference Set.** Ten used copies (five from each of the two plates) showing the five types as mentioned in this month's Notes. All identified, and with full description included, explaining the differences between W1 and W2 stamps, and detailing the five types £10.00
- (b) **As above,** but a 'jumbo' set of 20, with the basic set repeated in stamps overprinted Official. The ultimate reference set £15.00
- 307(a) Waterlow Trial Plates Re-entries.** Set of two used copies, showing a typical re-entry from each of the plates £6.75
- (b) **As above.** A complete set of all 30 Plate W1 re-entries mentioned on Temp. page G11 of the C.P. Catalogue, plus R10/18 and 10/22, which have been inadvertently omitted from the Catalogue listing. All identified by sheet position in pencil on the backs. Several are on stamps overprinted Official (G09a) but the majority are G9a. The complete set of 32 re-entries £75.00
- (c) **As above.** Similarly complete, but much smaller set of the six Plate W2 re-entries (all on G9a). Includes, of course, R6/18 which has the "No Sea" variety, in addition to a major re-entry. All used, and identified £27.50
- 308(a) Waterlow Trial Plate W2 'No Sea Under Globe'.** The listed variety G9a(W) with re-entry doubling. This is R6/18. Used £11.50
- (b) **As above.** The same variety, but on stamp overprinted Official. Used £11.50
- (c) **As above.** The other listed 'No Sea' (G9a(V)) without re-entry. Our choice of sheet position (which may be either R1/16, or R1/23, or R6/15) but copy supplied will be identified. Used £8.00
- (d) **As above.** The same variety, but overprinted Official (again our choice of sheet position). Used £8.00
- (e) **As above.** Complete identified set of 'No Sea' varieties from all four sheet positions. All on G9a or G09a – your choice (please specify). The used set of 4 £35.00
- 309 Waterlow Trial Plates – Complete Variety Collection.** Unique offer of: (a) all listed W1 and W2 re-entries, plus (b) the three 'No Sea' varieties without re-entry. 41 stamps, all used, mainly G9a, but with a few over-printed Official. A once-only (and once-in-a-lifetime) chance at £120.00

There's a delightful thought to conjure with! We've long ago lost count of the inquiries we've had for this type of material. Once upon a time it was relatively easy to come by, but not for many years past. However, we have just packeted an enormous box of them into lots of not less than 150. The only 'sorting' we have done was to discard any damaged copies we noticed as we lotted them up, so condition ought to be considerably better than might be expected — otherwise they are absolutely as-they-come. As a test of value for money, we analysed the contents of one of these lots, selected quite at random, and found varying quantities of no less than 9 of the 11 basic issues (G1 — G11). The only absenteers from our test packet were Cowan Unwatermarked (G4) and Booklet stamps (G7) — neither of which is surprising in such a small sample. In addition, we found a good re-entry and a couple of excellent Dot Plate retouches among the first 50 copies examined, so we are quite satisfied that our offer is a good and genuine one. Naturally we can't guarantee that each packet will be the same (in fact we guarantee that they certainly won't).

Demand is certain to be heavy, so we regret there is a limit of three packets per subscriber.

The unsorted Penny Universals. Per lot of c.150 £10.00

KING GEORGE VI (Continued)

- | | | |
|---------------|--|--------|
| 311(a) | 1d Red (M2a). Superb set of six shades, deep scarlet through to rose-red.
Mint | £7.50 |
| (b) | As above. A similar set of six shades, used | £1.25 |
| (c) | As above. Four used blocks of 4, four superb contrasts | £3.50 |
| (d) | As above. Complete collection of large sheet plate markings, includes (i) blocks of 4, plate nos. 3 and 4 (left selvedge only); (ii) blocks of 4, plate nos. 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 (both right and left selvedges); (iii) blocks of 8, plate nos. 25 and 26 (with printers imprint); (iv) block of 8, printers imprint without plate no. No less than 21 blocks (96 stamps) of which only 2 have been previously hinged, the others are superb unhinged. It's years since we last handled such a set as this | £95.00 |
| (e) | As above. Mint block of 4, including the 'naked-eye' medallion flaw (pl. 8 R6/6 — MV2a(g)) | £10.00 |
| (f) | As above. Two mint copies of the two Catalogued shades, both inverted watermark (M2aZ) | £4.00 |
| (g) | As above. Complete Booklet Pane of 6 stamps, inverted wmk (W6cY) in scarlet | £15.00 |
| (h) | As above. Booklet pane of 6, with plate number 5, watermark upright (W6aX). Cat. \$75, but tone spots allow | £7.50 |

(i)	As above. Shade set of four, all used, and all with inverted wmk. Most unusual	£2.50
(j)	As above. Plate 4, R5/7 retouch, used	£4.00
(k)	As above. Plate 6, R5/14 and 5/15 varieties (MV2a(b)) in used block of 4	£10.00
(l)	As above. Plate 6, R10/19 variety, used	£4.00
(m)	As above. Plate 7, R6/18 second state retouch (MV2a(d)), used	£4.00
(n)	As above. Plate 8, R5/20 retouch (MV2a(f)), used pair	£5.00
(o)	As above. Plate 8, R6/6 medallion flaw (MV2a(g)), used	£4.00
(p)	As above. Plate 11, R10/6 retouch (MV2a(h)), in used horizontal pair	£5.00
(q)	As above. Plate 11, R10/7 retouch (MV2a(j)), used	£4.00
(r)	As above. Plate 12, R9/11 variety, used	£4.00
(s)	As above. Plate 12, R9/24 retouch (MV2a(k)), used	£4.00
(t)	As above. Plate 26, R3/2 retouch (MV2a(m)), in used pair	£5.00
(u)	As above. Plate 26, R5/18 retouch (MV2a(n)), used	£4.00
(v)	As above. Plate 21, R5/17 variety, used	£4.00
(w)	As above. A set of the 14 used varieties listed above (lot 208 j - v). Priced individually to £60 and offered at (all used single copies)	£47.50
312(a)	1d Green, Fine H.M. paper (M2b). Marginal block of 4, unhinged mint	£10.00
(b)	As above. Three lovely green contrasts, unusual on this issue, all mint	£9.50
(c)	As above. A similar set of 3 shades, used	£4.00
(d)	As above. Imprint/plate (no.31) block of 8 mint	£17.50
(e)	As above. Block of 4, including the plate 31 R3/17 variety (MV2c(e))	£17.50
(f)	As above. Used example of R3/17 variety	£6.50
(g)	As above. Plate 29, R6/3 flaw, used	£6.50
313(a)	1d Green, Fine VM paper (M1c). Mint set of six attractive shades, all mint	£2.50
(b)	As above. Similar set of 6 contrasts, used	£1.50
(c)	As above. Mint copy with inverted watermark (M2cZ)	£12.50
(d)	As above. Two imprint/plate blocks of 8, plate nos. 28 and 32, mint	£6.00

(e)	As above. Set of 8 imprint/plate blocks (6 stamps each), nos. 102 — 109, complete. Mint	£10.00
(f)	As above. Horizontal strip of 3 from a slot machine, with butt join. An added attraction is that the right-hand stamp is on a fine paper, markedly different from that of the other two stamps. Superb	£12.50
(g)	As above. Mint block of 4 with pre-printing crease running vertically through the block. Eye-catching!	£7.50
(h)	As above. Marginal block of 10 with defective watermark variety (normal at the bottom, unrecognisable further up the block)	£10.00
(i)	As above. Mint block of 4 on very thin paper, plus normal paper block for comparison	£5.00
(j)	As above. Counter coil pair (MC1b) one stamp thin paper, the other normal	£5.00
(k)	As above. Another MC1b coil pair, stamps in superb shades of green	£5.00
(l)	As above. Plate 29, R6/3 variety, used	£4.00
(m)	As above. Plate 31, R3/17 (MV2c(e)) variety, used	£4.00
(n)	As above. Plate 36, R4/2 (MV2c(f)) variety, used	£4.00

1d DOMINION

314(a)	Booklet Pane. Complete mint pane of 6 from one of the electrotypes plates, and with binding selvedge at bottom (scarcer thus). From the issue with selvedge bars and continuous horizontal bar (W3bN). Minute hinge-thin on one stamp, otherwise fine	£70.00
(b)	As above. Another pane (no binding selvedge) — this one considerably more blurred. One or two minor gum-tones, not affecting superb facial appearance	£35.00
(c)	As above. Complete pane, with binding selvedge at top showing pair-wide horizontal bar (W3bM). Condition fair only, but appearance good	£35.00
(d)	As above. Complete pane from the 1919 steel plates issue, in the deep rich ruby shade (W4bX). In the scarcer binding-selvedge-at-bottom form, and condition very fine	£165.00
(e)	As above. Complete pane on Cowan "Reversed Wmk" paper, with 'Kodak' ads (W4e). Yet another example with binding selvedge at bottom. Gum rather toned, but facially immaculate	£35.00
315	'Q' Flaw/'Bow Split'. A rare marginal block of 4 including the two major plate 13 varieties (R10/19, 9/19). Selvedge roughly torn, but stamps superb mint unhinged	£37.50
316(a)	Jones Unsurfaced. (J2aX, S.G. 520a) Mint example of the major variety resulting from one sheet with defective surfacing. The left half (approximately) of this sheet was normal, the remainder unsurfaced.	

	Stamps from the defective portion are in a distinctive deep dull rose shade. Supplied with a normal 'Jones' for comparison	£225.00
(b)	As above. The perfect piece to show the 'Unsurfaced' error — a horizontal strip of 4 (plated to R7/11 — 14) in which the first two stamps are normal, the third is part normal/part unsurfaced, and the fourth completely unsurfaced. Only ten such strips could possibly exist. An exhibition piece, finest mint	£325.00
317(a)	De La Rue Unsurfaced (J3a). Fine used copy with Wellington c.d.s. of 11 MY 25 — beautiful contemporary use (first issued April 1925), and rare!	£37.50
(b)	As above. Another copy, superb used with Wellington c.d.s. (undated). Plated to R3/5 (damaged value label at right)	£35.00
(c)	As above. Fine commercially used example	£27.50
318(a)	De La Rue Paper, Sideways Wmk. Vertical strip of 3, top stamp no wmk, centre stamp letter wmk, bottom stamp sideways inverted wmk. One or two perf. tones, barely evident on face side	£8.75
(b)	As above. This is another very scarce stamp used, but we can offer a magnificent set of 4: (i) with normal wmk sideways; (ii) with wmk sideways inverted; (iii) with wmk letters; (iv) with no wmk. The used set (J4a, J4a(Z), (Y) and (X))	£57.50
319(a)	Cowan Paper. Marginal block of 4 including the R5/24 'Broken Globe' variety. (J6aW) Perfect mint unhinged	£20.00
(b)	As above. Mint copy with R3/1 'Feather' flaw (J6aV) — unusual in that this copy is from a slot machine roll, with pink end-paper attached. Nice!	£17.50
(c)	As above. Fine mint block of 4, one stamp being the 'Feather' flaw variety	£15.00
320(a)	De La Rue 'Official'. Mint copy with beautiful complete offset impression (of the design) on the back (J01aZ). Superb	£20.00
(b)	As above. Complete set of the four major plate flaws — 'Feather', 'Broken Globe', 'Q' and 'Bow Split'. Seldom available with Official overprint. The used variety set	£47.50
321(a)	Jones 'Official'. R5/24 'Broken Globe' flaw, in marginal pair with normal stamp (J02aZ). Superfine mint	£27.50
(b)	As above. Set of two listed varieties ('Broken Globe' and 'Feather'). Used	£15.00
322	Litho Wmk 'Official'. Two mint copies, again showing the listed flaws (J05aZ, Y). Hinged but fine, and scarce	£25.00
323	Cowan 'Official'. Used set of three major plate flaws — 'Globe', 'Feather' and 'Broken N' (the last of these first appeared on this Cowan paper, of course)	£32.50

- 324(a) Cowan Reversed Wmk 'Official'.** A superb block of 4 from the bottom right corner of a sheet (with full corner selvage) and including, on R9/23, the spectacular 'Broken N' flaw (J07aX). A very rare positional piece on this paper. Hinging confined to the extreme edge of the very wide selvage, stamps unhinged, and the whole piece pristine fresh £165.00
- (b) As above.** The 'Broken Globe' flaw (J07aZ) in marginal vertical pair with a normal. Again hinged in selvage only, and minor splitting of perfs. between selvage and the variety stamp £75.00
- 325(a) 1d Dominion Newspaper Wrapper.** The 1920 issue on buff paper (Samuel FB8a). A superb unused example with the watermark sideways reading downwards £15.00
- (b) As above.** Another wrapper (same issue), but with watermark sideways reading up. Couple of faults (crease and repaired scissors-cut) well clear of the printed area, which is immaculate £6.50
- (c) As above.** The 1923 provisional issue of the above wrapper, with values obliterated and the new value ½d overprinted in green (Samuel FB9a). Unused and fine £17.50
- 326 1d Dominion Letter Card.** Issued Oct. 1923 (and superseded just nine months later). Printed in carmine on pale blue card – the latter colour rather faded, hence only £5.00

327

1953 CORONATION 2d

While sheets of this stamp were being perforated, the machine broke down, and pending repairs, only half of the head could be used. A comparatively small supply of half-sheets was issued, with the normal sheet value £1 obliterated by two horizontal bars, and the emergency "half-sheet value" (10/-) added alongside. We have this interesting (and scarce) altered sheet value in a corner block of 4, mint unhinged

£20.00

RECENT ISSUES

1985 St. John Ambulance (issued 16/1/85) 24c, 30c, 40c.

Mint set of 3 stamps 75p
 Complete set of imprint/plate blocks (6 stamps each block). Including 24c x 4 (plates 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D), 30c x 2 (1A, 1B), 40c x 2 (1A, 1B).
 Set of 8 blocks £12.75
 One Imprint/plate block each value £5.35
 Official Illustrated F.D.C. (Wanganui pmk) 85p

30c Fruit. First reprints, set of two imprint blocks (bottom selvage perforated and not perforated). This is another departure for N.Z. philately, the reprint mark taking the form of a miniature Kiwi! £3.50

1984 Christmas Aerogramme. Extremely attractive unstamped aerogramme, featuring the Fantail bird (famous on the ½d 1935-43 Pictorials). Post paid £1.00