

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

by Colin Hamilton

Penny Universal Variety (1). Fifteen different plates were used for the recess-printed issues of the 1d Universal – the 'London', First Local 1, 2 and 3, 'Reserve', 'Booklet', Dot 1, 2 and 3, Waterlow Trial W1 and W2, Royle Trial R1 and R2, Royle 3-dot and 4-dot.

A large number of re-entries have been recorded. Taking all the plates together, the total is probably well in excess of 150. Doubling of the design varies from very minor to very major indeed. As is usual with such varieties, wherever doubling is found, the two impressions are very close together, within fractions of a millimetre, in fact. There is, however, just one exception to this otherwise invariable rule, and a remarkable exception it is. It occurs on First Local Plate 3, at R7/16, and curiously it has to be classed as one of the lesser known varieties. Apparently it had not been recorded at all when Volume 1 of "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand" was prepared, for first mention of it appears in Volume 2 (on page 309).

What makes R7/16 so remarkable is that the first impression was a **full 2½mm too high**. Although considerable evidence of the original impression remains in the printed stamps, it is so far removed from its counterparts in the second impression that it is not immediately apparent that "doubling" is present at all. The stamp rather presents the appearance of having numerous coloured flaws. This no doubt accounts at least partly for its relative anonymity. Reference to the accompanying illustration (on page 1) will help greatly in appreciating this point. For clarity, we have of course emphasised the residual lines of the first impression. The broken horizontal line, part of which runs through the ER of UNIVERSAL, represents part of the colour forming the base of the letters ONE; the extra lines of colour in the sea below the ship are parts of the letters NI of UNIVERSAL; and the lines of colour in the sea below the globe are parts of the A of POSTAGE. Interested readers are left to work out from this the rest of the puzzle (the lazy way is to take a careful tracing of the emphasised lines, then to realign the tracing so that those identified above coincide with these same lines on the re-entered impression).

Penny Universal Variety (2). In the Martin Tombleson collection there were two examples of a striking and very obvious flaw which was completely new to us. Plated to Row 1, No. 1 on First Local Plate 1, we illustrate it here (below left).



Mr Tombleson states that it occurred late in the life of the plate, (certainly the two examples seen showed advanced plate wear). Readers will at once notice the remarkable similarities between this flaw, and the well-known one on R9/23 of the 1d Dominion, Plate 12 (also illustrated here – above right). This flaw also occurred late in the life of the plate – it first appeared on the Cowan paper issues. Despite these similarities there is, of course, no connection whatsoever between the two varieties. The coincidence does, however, serve to underline the outstanding difference between flaws of this type in recess and surface printing. In the former, such flaws are coloured, in the latter, they are uncoloured.

Readers are advised to keep a special eye open for the "new" variety, on worn copies of G5a. It's a good one, and almost certainly quite a little rarity.

MISCELLANY

- 401 Perforated Full-Face Queens.** An attractive set of 10 used, including all values and changes of colour. Not quite top-grade (the odd heavier postmark, and one or two minor faults), but well above average condition for these classic stamps, and lovely fresh colours throughout. The set of Chalon Heads £165.00
- 402 1898 Pictorial ½d.** Three beautiful mint pairs of the London Print (E1a), in the listed shades of purple-brown, purple slate and blackish purple. The last shade (the scarcest) is very deep and distinctive £19.50
- 403 First Pictorial 9d.** Marginal block of 4, perf. 14 (E17d). Trace of hinge in selvage, otherwise perfect unhinged. Right-hand pair show a major plate scratch. S.G. Cat. £22 per stamp as hinged! £75.00

TWO "BULLETIN SPECIALS"!

- 404 King Edward VII.** Complete set of all the basic definitive issues: Perf. 14x15: ½d; Perf. 14x14½: 2d, 3d, 4d red-orange, 4d yellow, 5d, 6d, 8d, 1/-; Perf. 14x13½: 3d, 5d, 6d, 8d; Perf. 14 line: 3d, 4d red-orange, 5d, 6d, 1/-; 'Pictorial' paper: 8d. The set of 19, all superfine fresh mint. Cat. C.P. \$914.50, S.G. £468. Very scarce, and most attractive at £225.00
- 405 King George V Two-Perf. Pairs.** Set of 16 vertical pairs (1½d, 2d violet, 2d yellow, 2½d, 3d, 4d yellow, 4d violet, 4½d, 5d, 6d, 7½d, 8d, 9d, 1/-, all on 'Cowan' paper, plus two pairs of the 'Pictorial' paper 1½d, one with wmk, one no wmk). Complete as listed by S.G., but lacking the extremely rare 4d (K5j) listed by C.P. Cat. C.P. \$1430, S.G. £733. Again just the one set, all finest mint. To the first order at only £345.00

- 406(a) 1906 Christchurch Exhibition.** Complete mint set of 4, rather heavily hinged, but very good condition. A snip for someone, at, the set £97.50
- (b) As above.** 1d value only, mint unhinged! £19.50
- (c) As above.** 3d value only, mint lightly hinged, and superfine £35.00
- 407 1913 Auckland Exhibition.** Price has put the 3d and 6d out of reach of some collectors. For those who do not aspire to owning the full set, we can offer the ½d and 1d only, superfine mint at, the pair £32.50
- 408 Auckland Exhibition 1d.** Superb used copy (with central Exhibition c.d.s.) showing the R5/24 'Broken Globe' variety (SV6a(a)). Rare! £75.00
- 409 1935 Silver Jubilee 6d.** Want to fill an awkward gap? We have available a number of mint copies, previously hinged but of the finest quality and appearance. Each, only £5.75
- 410 1969 Law Society 18c.** The rare plate numbers 1221 and 1a2a2a1a, each in superb unhinged mint corner block of six as listed. The two blocks £100.00

411	1937 Health. Complete set of eight plate blocks, with plate numbers 1 and 2 each in four different positions. Cat. \$200, but perf. tones affect all eight blocks, hence only	£11.50
412	1935 Air Mail Stamps. The complete set (1d, 3d, 6d) in brilliant mint plate blocks of 4	£52.50
413(a)	Victoria Land 1d (RD3a). Superfine mint, very lightly hinged	£30.00
	(b) As above. Marginal copy, perfect unhinged mint	£37.50
	(c) As above. Marginal block of 4, also perfect unhinged	£145.00
	(d) As above. Superb used copy, cancelled (as used should be) by British Antarctic Expedition c.d.s. Very scarce	£60.00

1d UNIVERSALS – SOME LARGE MULTIPLES

A further selection of superb items from the Martin Tombleson collection.

414(a)	Pirie Paper, Perf. 11 (G2a). A magnificent top left corner block of 42 (7x6), with full selvages, from a sheet printed from plate 3, thus including the rather minor, but listed, re-entry at R3/1, and the much more prominent one at R6/3, which has complete doubling of all the letters NIVERSAL POSTA. Strangely this re-entry is unrecorded in any of the usual reference works. A spectacular feature of the block is the complete coloured impression of a large screw-head, some 13mm in diameter, in the left selvedge between rows 5 and 6 (presumably this was a retaining screw countersunk into the plate to fix it in position for printing). The large block, of brilliant colour, and pristine mint unhinged. Exhibition material	£185.00
	(b) As above. Another large block of 28 (7x4), but with bottom left corner selvedge, and almost certainly from the same sheet as the previous item. No re-entries, but the same wonderfully fine condition	£115.00
415(a)	Basted Mills Paper, Perf. 11x14 (G3c). Quarter sheet of 60 (12x5) with full top right corner selvedge. Again from plate 3, and showing the R4/19 and 5/24 re-entries. With the exception of Rows 1 to 5, Nos 19 to 24, all plate 3 stamps have a characteristic small dot, similar to the better-known "London dot" but in a different position — the plate 3 dot is found just above the projecting leaf on the left, below the central pearls. This block includes the entire "no dot" group of impressions, although in some cases the evidence has been obscured by the usual somewhat variable perforating. Yet again, quite remarkably fresh and fine (previous hinges confined to selvedge only)	£250.00
	(b) As above. Matching block of 60, being the bottom-right quarter from the same sheet as the above block. Includes the extraordinary R7/16 re-entry described in this month's N.Z. Notes, plus two other good re-entries (R6/14 and 8/24). Unfortunately the position of the vertical perforations at the extreme left leaves no trace of the scratched plate number in the bottom selvedge. Nevertheless, like all of the other items offered here, an outstandingly fine and scarce piece	£275.00

- 416(a) Cowan Unwmk'd Paper, Perf. 14 (G4a).** By no means an easy stamp to find, this one, in our experience. Here offered in top left corner block of 30 (5x6), from plate 2, with two very good re-entries at R1/1 and R6/2. Clear evidence in the left selvedge of a retaining screw, similar to that described in lot 414(a) above. Some creasing and splitting perfs in left selvedge, well clear of stamps, which are superb unhinged throughout £225.00
- (b) As above.** Bottom left corner block of 20 (5x4), including the major R8/4 (pl. 2) re-entry, with extensive doubling of the design. Again minor selvedge faults, stamps superfine £165.00
- (c) As above.** Top right corner block of 30 (5x6), also from plate 2, with the good R5/20 and 6/21 re-entries. Selvedge perfs strengthened at a couple of points, but a beautifully fresh and fine block, although stamps are rather off-centre to right £160.00
- (d) As above.** Fine bottom right corner block of 12 (4x3) from plate 1, thus including the rather minor R9/24 re-entry, and the outstandingly clear retouch at R9/21 — the pearl at the top left corner is completely and crudely redrawn (this is the only known instance of retouching in any of these early local plates). £135.00
- 417 Dot Plates.** Bottom selvedge block of 12 with the Plate 3 marking (in the form of three near-vertical dashes) immediately above the selvedge arrow in the centre of the block. All Dot-Plate markings, especially in complete form, are of the utmost rarity (at the time of publication of G.R. Lee's "Penny Universal" monograph, only one example had been found, despite extensive searches. At present, however, we have knowledge of one Plate 1 block, two from Plate 2, and three (including this one) from Plate 3). In this block, incidentally, the bottom row of stamps has mixed perfs — curiously, at least two of the other plate blocks we know of also show mixed perfs. The rare plate block £750.00
- 418 Waterlow Trial Plates.** Top right corner block of 25 (5x5), overprinted Official (G09a). Includes several listed re-entries, as well as showing the five types se-tenant, of course. Attractive appearance, but condition fair only (creases and stains) hence only £37.50

KING GEORGE VI (Continued)

A superb listing mainly this month covering the "coarse paper" 1d issues. Remember all varieties are supplied with descriptions where applicable.

- 419(a) 1d Green, coarse VM paper (M2d).** Four lovely green contrasts, each in mint block of 4 £4.50
- (b) As above.** This time five shades, mint singles £1.25
- (c) As above.** The original 'central-bottom-selvedge' imprint/plate blocks (8 stamps each), seven different plate nos 65, 70, 71, 72, 73, 77, 78. Mint £20.00

(d)	As above. The later 'corner' imprint/plate blocks (6 stamps each), plate nos 112 – 125, 128. 15 mint blocks, complete except for the very rare plate 126	£25.00
(e)	As above. Four different papers, all coarse, from the normal thick to very thin. Set of 4 mint stamps	£5.00
(f)	As above. Mint horizontal strip of 4, with butt join, from slot machine	£6.00
(g)	As above. Marginal mint block of 6, two stamps having partial off-set of the green border, on the back. Most attractive	£7.50
(h)	As above. Used copy of the inverted watermark variety (M2dZ). Extremely scarce on this paper, one of two shortish perfs, hence	£17.50
(i)	As above. Mint block of 4 with R8/4 variety, and horizontal pair with R5/7 variety, both from plate 72	£10.00
(j)	As above. Mint corner block of 18, from plate 77, with R3/6 retouch (MV2d(j)) – seldom seen in positional block	£17.50
(k)	As above. Marginal block of 4, plate 78, R7/1 retouch, mint	£7.50
(l)	As above. Mint marginal block of 4, also plate 78, R4/16 weak panel variety – easily seen with the naked eye	£7.50
(m)	As above. Mint corner block of 12 with R1/3 and 4/2 varieties, and horizontal pair with R7/17 retouch (MV2d(k)), both also from plate 78	£12.50
(n)	As above. Marginal mint block of 4, plate 85, R9/17 retouch (MV2d(p)) ...	£12.50
(o)	As above. Three positional mint variety blocks all from plate 115 including R1/3, 1/4, 1/5, 1/6; R1/22, 2/21, 2/22, 2/23, 2/24; R10/6 in imprint/plate block of 12. Superb	£17.50
(p)	As above. Mint marginal block of 4, plate 117, R10/13 variety	£7.50
(q)	As above. Mint marginal block of 6, plate 119, R3/17 variety	£7.50
(r)	As above. Two mint blocks of 24 stamps (together forming the top two rows of a sheet), from plate 120, including R1/3, 1/5, 1/8, 1/10, 1/11, 1/12, 1/13, 1/18, 1/19, 1/20	£15.00
(s)	As above. Imprint/plate no. 121 in block of 12, including R10/3 and 10/6 varieties, mint	£10.00
(t)	As above. Three marginal blocks of 4, all from plate 122, including R1/1, 1/2; R1/11, 1/12; R2/17. Mint	£15.00
(u)	As above. Corner block of 12, also plate 122, includes R1/22, 1/23, 1/24, 2/19, 2/21. Mint	£7.50
(v)	As above. Corner block of 16, plate 124, including R2/2, 6/1 and 7/1 varieties. Mint	£10.00

(w)	As above. Mint marginal block of 4, plate 125, R7/1 variety	£7.50
(x)	As above. Three bottom selvedge mint blocks, also plate 125, showing the plate cracks between R9/9 – 10, R10/12 – 13, R10/19 – 20, R10/20 – 21 ..	£15.00
(y)	As above. Mint block of 4, plate 128, including R1/22, 1/23 varieties	£7.50
420(a)	1d Green, coarse VM paper, Overprinted Official (M02d). Three mint shades	£1.50
(b)	As above. Imprint/plate block of 8, pl. no. 43, mint	£5.00
(c)	As above. Three used singles, R2/4 plate 65, R4/16 and R7/1 plate 78, all overprinted Official	£10.00
421(a)	1d Green, coarse HM paper (M2e). Mint single	£3.00
(b)	As above. Used copy	£2.75
(c)	As above. Brilliant used block of 4 (an inexpensive rarity)	£15.00
(d)	As above. Used copy from plate 84, R10/20 retouch	£7.50
(e)	As above. Used single plate 85, R2/22 retouch (MV2d(n))	£7.50
(f)	As above. This is the other Catalogued variety from plate 85, R9/17 retouch (MV2d(p)). Used	£7.50
(g)	As above. This set of 2 used green shades, is of the much scarcer official issue (M02e)	£10.00
(h)	As above. M02e used copy from plate 85, with R9/17 retouch. Another cheap rarity	£12.50
422(a)	1d on ½d Green (M3a). Two superb green shades, each in mint block of 4 ..	£4.00
(b)	As above. The same two shades, mint singles	£1.00
(c)	As above. Marginal block of 4, showing the printers' attempt to remove the old green plate number, by two large punched holes	£10.00

1970 PICTORIAL LOWER VALUES – THE UNWATERMARKED ISSUES

Although issued as recently as 1973 many of these have been consistently elusive in mint condition for a number of years now. For the first time in years, we have a reasonably comprehensive stock. Our advice is, fill those gaps now.

423(a)	1c Red Admiral (P2c). Colourless gum. Mint single 35p. Block of 4	£1.40
(b)	As above, but later bluish gum. Mint single 30p. Block of 4	£1.20
424(a)	2c Tussock Butterfly (P3b). Colourless gum. Mint single 35p. Block of 4 ..	£1.40

(b)	As above, but bluish gum. Mint single 30p. Block of 4	£1.20
425	3c Lichen Moth (P5c). Colourless gum. Mint single 25p. Block of 4	£1.00
426(a)	4c Puriri Moth (P6c). Colourless gum. Mint single 15p. Block of 4	60p
(b)	As above, but bluish gum. Mint single 10p. Block of 4	35p
427	5c Scarlet Parrot Fish (P7b). Colourless gum. Mint single £1.35. Block of 4	£5.25
428(a)	6c Sea Horse (P8b). Colourless gum. Mint single £1.25. Block of 4	£5.00
(b)	As above, but bluish gum. Mint single £1.00. Block of 4	£4.00
429	7c Leather Jacket (P9b). Colourless gum. Mint single £1.75. Block of 4 ..	£6.75
430	8c John Dory (P11b). Bluish gum. Mint single £3.00. Block of 4	£11.50
431(a)	10c Coat of Arms (P12b). Colourless gum. Mint single 40p. Block of 4 ..	£1.60
(b)	As above, but bluish gum. Mint single 20p. Block of 4	75p

Our February offers "by the Catalogue Section" proved (not surprisingly!) to be very popular, so here are one or two more.

432	Catalogue Section S(3). Commemoratives 1967 Royal Society — 1973 Frances Hodgkins Paintings. 28 sets (71 stamps), complete unhinged mint. Cat. C.P. \$119+, S.G. £68.50+	£21.50
433	Catalogue Section SS. Scenic Stamps 1972 Alpine Plants — 1983 Beautiful N.Z. 12 sets (48 stamps), complete unhinged mint. Cat. C.P. \$89.50+, S.G. £49.50	£19.50

RECENT ISSUES

1985	Vintage Transport (Trams/cable cars). 24c, 30c, 35c, 40c, 45c, 58c — issued 6.3.85	
	Mint set of 6 stamps	£1.78
	Complete set of 6 imprint/plate blocks (six stamps each block)	£12.50
	Official Illustrated First Day Cover (Wanganui pmk)	£1.88
1984	Military History Miniature Sheet, finest used — we hasten to point out not cancelled to order, they have been genuinely used	£2.75
\$2.64	Booklets, including 10 x 24c Map stamps perf. 14½x14 (to be listed as W17d) with RH and LH selvages	
	Pair of Booklets, perfs, as they come	£4.50
	Pair of Booklets, superb perfs.	£6.00