

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

1920 Victory. As mentioned in "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand", Volume 4, page 385—6, a special trial plate of unusual form was made in connection with this issue. It consisted of sixteen impressions (four each of the ½d, 3d, 6d and 1/-, i.e. all the larger-size designs), each value being in a group of four (2 x 2). All of the impressions were spaced much more widely than is normal. Within each group, the gutters separating the impressions were between 9mm and 10mm wide, and those separating each group were about 12mm wide. The four groups of 4 were so arranged that in the printed sheet the 3d's formed the top left quarter, the ½d's the top right quarter, the 1/-'s the bottom right quarter, and the 6d's (lying sideways, with the tops of the designs to the left) the bottom left quarter.

At the time Volume 4 was written, all of the above was theoretical, based on the limited amount of material which was then available, but further material which has come to light since has either matched material previously seen, or provided confirmation of other parts of the theory formulated, and it is now pretty well proven to be correct in its entirety.

The precise reason for the manufacture of this unusual plate remains unknown. Volume 4 suggests rather tentatively that it might have been made to carry out tests with nickel surfacing. In any event, its legacy for the collector is a quite delightful range of proof material, printed in a whole range of unissued colours. Some of this is included in our listing of offers of 'Victory' proofs elsewhere in this Bulletin.

1972 Lakes Issue. As has been the case with all N.Z. stamps printed by Courvoisier S.A., the 'Lakes' were notable not only for the absence of plate or other varieties, but for the uniformity which appears to be the hallmark of the Swiss printing firm. My Auckland colleague Warwick Paterson has, however, just recently shown me several mint copies of the 23c top value with the main (frame) colour in a very distinctive yellow-olive, contrasting quite remarkably with the deep sage-green which is the standard for this stamp. The new shade has a peculiar parallel in the King George V 9d definitive, and like the latter, is sure to be accorded a listing in the C.P. Catalogue.

'Minerals' Reprints. A recent reprint of the 5c Carnelian indicates a departure from established practice in these issues by Leigh-Mardon, the Australian printers. Gone completely are the series of boxes in the bottom selvage alongside the imprint, enclosing dots representing the plates in use, and the print number. In their place, below R10/2, appears a Kiwi in silhouette — the reprint

symbol which has previously been used on the 30c Fruit and, more recently, on the 40c and 50c of the same series. It seems likely that the "dots-in-boxes" system, which made the now obsolete 24c Map quite a complicated issue for imprint collectors, will disappear from the other Minerals values as and when reprints become necessary.

25c and 35c 'Queen'. These two definitive stamps were withdrawn from sale at the N.Z. Philatelic Bureaux on 30th April 1986 — exactly ten months after the date they were first issued. It must be a rare occurrence for a definitive issue to become obsolete before it has even appeared in the leading stamp catalogues. The reason for their extraordinarily short life is of course the increase in N.Z. postage rates which took effect on 1st May (the replacements — two further stamps in the current 'Birds' series — have face values of 30c and 45c).

Unusual Honours. The Federation of New Zealand Philatelic Societies has honoured three distinguished "elder statesmen" of the U.K. N.Z. philatelic scene (I'm sure none of the gentlemen concerned will object to my referring to them in these terms!).

Noel Turner and Phil Evans each receive the Federation's Award of Honour, for outstanding service to philately in New Zealand.

John D. Evans receives the Award of Merit, recognising outstanding philatelic research which has been presented or published for the general good of philately.

Neither of these awards is bestowed lightly by the Federation, and overseas recipients in particular have not been numerous. All three are, in our estimation, richly deserved.

1D UNIVERSAL — THE BOOKLET ISSUES

A superb listing of these scarce issues — from the finest stock we have had for many a year — all printed from the special 'Booklet' plate of 1902. Individual stamps from this plate are easily distinguishable from all other 1d Universals. In addition to the four-o'clock flaw, they have two peculiarities which are unique to the Booklet plate. Firstly, the pearl at the extreme top left corner of the design is quite distinctive, having been strengthened on every single impression on the plate by means of a hand-punch. Secondly, every Booklet plate stamp shows an upward 'dent' in the bottom of the solid block of colour containing the value, immediately below the left hand side of the O of ONE.

601(a)	Single stamp, finest mint (G7a). Cat. \$ 75	£20.00
(b)	As above, but fine used	£7.50
602(a)	Shades set. Three superb mint copies, in bright carmine, deep carmine and rose-carmine. Magnificent contrasts	£57.50
(b)	As above. Set of three used, in equally fine shade contrasts	£20.00
603(a)	Horizontal Pair, imperf. at sides (W2(T)). Finest mint	£42.50
(b)	As above, but perfs. complete (W2(S)). Finest mint	£42.50
604	Used Block. Brilliant used block of 4 (dated May 1904). Being the bottom two-thirds of a pane from position no. 3, the block includes the re-entries at R2/5 (a major one) and R3/5. A showpiece block	£37.50

605(a)	Pane of Six. Pane no. 1, binding selvedge complete. Shows minor doubling on R1/2 (not recorded by G.R. Lee). Fine mint, and accompanied by front and back covers of a 1905 2/0½d booklet (W2c)	£195.00
(b)	As above. Pane no. 2, including (on stamp 1) the R1/3 re-entry. Binding selvedge slightly trimmed, but over ¼" still remains intact	£150.00
(c)	As above. Pane no. 3, binding selvedge complete. A peculiarity of panes from this position is that all three stamps on the left show re-entries (R1/5, 2/5, 3/5), and even to the naked eye are of notably fuller colour than their neighbours. The pane, superfine mint	£195.00
(d)	As above. Pane no. 4. Binding selvedge removed, and some perf. staining shows faintly on face side, hence only	£25.00
(e)	As above. Pane no. 21. As in lot 605(b) above, the binding selvedge (in this case at the bottom of the pane, of course) has been neatly trimmed inside the staple holes, leaving a full ¼" still attached. Includes, on the bottom pair of stamps, the recorded R9/9 and 9/10 re-entries	£150.00
(f)	As above. Pane no. 22, binding selvedge complete, and in superfine mint condition. Panes with binding selvedge at the bottom (from this and other later booklet plates of the same format) are especially desirable, since for every one pane in this form, there were two with the selvedge at the top ...	£200.00
606	Complete Booklet. Rare example of N.Z.'s very first definitive booklet, the 1/0½d of August 1902 (as distinct from the two experimental issues of 1901, both of which were made up of Pirie paper perf. 11 stamps removed from ordinary sheets). This one contains two panes of Booklet plate stamps — both pane no. 23 — and two sheets of waxed paper interleaving, the extra ½d in the price being charged to help cover the cost of binding etc. Gum on both panes of rather messy appearance, but curiously this has not affected the facial look of either the stamps or the booklet itself in the slightest. The rare booklet (W2a), Cat. \$ 1600	£325.00
607(a)	Part Booklet. Another example of the same 1/0½d booklet, but with one pane of stamps (and its sheet of interleaving) removed. Remaining pane from position no. 2, with the R1/3 re-entry. Fine	£275.00
(b)	As above. 2/6½d booklet, but with only one of the original five panes remaining. This example is from the second supply produced in Feb. 1903, distinguishable from the first supply by the absence of the number 5569 from the back cover). Some slight ageing, but condition pretty good overall. Cat. \$ 3000 as a complete booklet	£220.00
608(a)	'Official' Booklet Stamps. Single copy, finest mint (GO7a)	£5.00
(b)	As above. Two superb shades, deep carmine and pink-carmine	£10.00
(c)	As above. Horizontal pair (WO2(X)), superfine mint	£11.50
(d)	As above. Single stamp, finest used (scarce thus)	£8.75
609(a)	'Official' Pane of Six. Pane no. 1, superfine	£22.50

(b) As above. Pane no. 2, in an unusually pale delicate shade. Superfine	£22.50
(c) As above. Pane no. 4, bite out of binding selvedge around staple holes, otherwise superb (stamps unhinged)	£17.50
(d) As above. Pane no. 10. Perfect mint!	£25.00
(e) As above. Pane no. 13, with two re-entries (R4/10 and 6/10). Slight damage (extra hole) in binding selvedge, otherwise immaculate	£22.50
(f) As above. Pane no. 14, including R6/12 re-entry (minor). Superfine	£22.50
(g) As above. Pane no. 17, with re-entry doubling of the top right quarter of the design on stamp 3, i.e. R8/1 (unrecorded). Binding selvedge creased, otherwise fine	£18.50

KING GEORGE V 'COLOUR PRINTS'

A few offers of these scarce and desirable items. All are imperf., and printed on the 'Pictorial' paper with the wide-spaced watermark in the colours indicated, and overprinted 'COLOUR PRINT' in two lines in black.

610	1½d Grey (colour rather paler than that finally selected for the issued stamps).	£12.50
611	1½d Black. Horizontal pair, one wmk'd, the other no wmk.	£27.50
612	2d Deep Blackish Violet	£15.00
613	3d Dull Brown. A marginal copy	£15.00
614(a)	4d Orange. On the 'Pictorial' paper used sideways, thus with sideways wmk .	£15.00
	(b) As above. Another copy, but without wmk.	£17.50
615	4½d Bronze Green (totally different from the issued colour)	£15.00
616(a)	7½d Red-Brown	£15.00
	(b) As above, but no wmk.	£17.50
617	7½d Deep Chocolate	£15.00

MARINE POST OFFICE COVERS

All covers offered below bear strikes of the distinctive datestamps used by the post offices on the ships concerned. References to type numbers are those illustrated in "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand", Vol. 3, Pages 265, 267 and 268.

618	R.M.S. Moana. (Type 14). Impressed in pink on 1899 1½d illustrated postal stationery card to England. Other markings are rectangular PACKET-BOAT (Type 40) cancelling stamp, and San Francisco transit mark (superimposed on the marine P.O. datestamp)	£25.00
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- 619 R.M.S. Sonoma.** (Type 20). Superb strike in blue-green of the rare second 'Sonoma' datestamp on picture postcard to Wellington. The date has been altered in manuscript from 6th to 10th Jan. 1905 — this conforms with the dated message from the sender to the addressee on the other side of the card. 1d Universal adhesive cancelled by indistinct rectangular PACKET BOAT marking (Type 39). Vol. 3 records that only one example of this Sonoma c.d.s. had been seen — we believe a few others have come to light since then, of which ours is one £95.00
- 620 R.M.S. Maunganui** (Type 34). Two strikes (in black) on 1932 cover to England £15.00
- 621(a) R.M.S. Makura** (Type 33). Very fine strike on 1931 cover to England. Australian 3d adhesive (S.G. 115) tied by circular PACKET BOAT marking (Type 46) £20.00
- (b) As above.** 'Late Fee' cover to England with 2d Whare adhesive tied by fine strike of the Makura c.d.s. of 12 MY 36. Rubber-stamped LATE FEE marking (in purple) is Type 17 (page 233, Vol. 3) £20.00
- 622(a) R.M.M.S. Aorangi** (Type 38). Two strikes, cancelling Auckland meter marks, on 1925 cover to England £15.00
- (b) As above.** Another example, on 1930 cover to England, with rectangular PACKET BOAT marking cancelling Australian 1½d K.G.V adhesive £17.50
- (c) As above.** 1938 cover to England with superb strike of the Aorangi c.d.s., and adhesives (pair of 1937 Healths) cancelled by the distinctive 'wavy lines in circle' obliterator (Type 51), a design chosen because it was symbolic of the sea £22.50
- 623 R.M.S. Niagara** (Type 25). The first 'Niagara' datestamp, on 1928 cover to U.S.A., with Canada 2c adhesive tied by rectangular PACKET BOAT (Type 42). Some foxing around adhesive, but markings very fine £15.00
- 624(a) R.M.S. Niagara** (Type 29). The second 'Niagara' c.d.s. (introduced in 1929) with 'NEW/ZEALAND' replacing 'N.Z.' above the date. On 1932 cover with printed 'R.M.S. NIAGARA' monogram on flap to England £17.50
- (b) As above.** Another (1936) cover to England with the second 'Niagara' c.d.s. Canadian adhesives cancelled by 'wavy lines in circle' obliterator. Cover also bears an oval R.M.S. NIAGARA/PURSER'S OFFICE datestamp in blue £27.50

MISCELLANY

- 625 ½d Mt. Cook.** Plate proofs in both the 'London' design (E1a) and the slightly amended 'Local' issue (Section F) exist. To the unwary eye, these are very similar indeed, yet the former are scarce, and the latter quite common. We can offer a pair of each, both imperf, both on unwatermarked paper, and both printed in colour similar to the issued London print. Interesting in their own right, and very useful as a reference set. The two plate proof pairs £27.50
- 626 2d Pembroke Peak.** A situation identical to that described above occurs in this value too. Again our offer is of two pairs of plate proofs, one in the

	'London' design (scarce) and one in the 'Local'	£27.50
627	1d Dominion. An attempted reconstruction of a sheet from plate 12 by means of used copies. Very nearly complete — only three positions missing. Not checked by us, but the work of an expert in the issue. Mounted on six album leaves. Some extras due to overlapping blocks etc. make a total of 247 stamps	£87.50

1920 VICTORY PROOFS

All items offered are overprinted SPECIMEN in black.

(i) From the plates used for printing the issued stamps, on unwmk'd paper, perf. 14.

628(a)	1d in deep mauve	£22.50
(b)	1d in lilac	£22.50
(c)	As above, block of 4	£95.00
(d)	1½d in sepia	£22.50

(ii) From the special 'spaced' trial plate mentioned in this month's Notes.

629(a)	½d in violet. Imperf. single with good margins (2 — 3mm all round)	£22.50
(b)	½d in carmine. Imperf. vertical pair. Gum crease across lower impression ..	£37.50
(c)	3d in deep mauve. Single, perf. 14	£22.50
(d)	6d in lilac. Single, imperf.	£22.50
(e)	6d in bright mauve. Single, perf. 14	£22.50
(f)	6d in deep mauve. Block of 4, imperf.	£100.00
(g)	6d in pale ultramarine. Single, perf. 14	£22.50
(h)	6d in deep ultramarine. Horizontal pair, imperf.	£47.50
(i)	6d in red brown. Single, imperf. Minor stain	£15.00
(j)	1/- in deep mauve. Single, perf. 14	£22.50
(k)	As above. Single, imperf. (wide margins)	£22.50
(l)	As above. Vertical pair, imperf.	£47.50
(m)	1/- in ultramarine. Single, perf. 14	£22.50
(n)	As above. Single, imperf.	£22.50
(o)	1/- in red-chocolate. Single, perf. 14	£22.50

630	Reconstructed sheet. Imperf. blocks of 4 of the 3d (in deep mauve), ½d (in carmine), 1/- (in red chocolate) and 6d (in ultramarine). Mounted up clockwise in the order given, these four blocks give a perfect, if multicoloured, representation of the layout of this special plate. A wonderful page in the making	£400.00
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Q.E. HEADS

A continuation of last months listing. All stamps are mint.

631 (a)	4d Ultramarine (N6a). Three lovely shade contrasts	£1.00
(b)	As above. Both imprint/plate blocks of 6 (nos. 9 and 19)	£5.00
(c)	As above. Two counter coil pairs, NC1h and NC3d, with different coil numbers for ready identification	£3.00
(d)	As above. Counter coil pair (NC3d), the stamps being in contrasting bright and deep ultramarine shades	£6.00
632 (a)	6d Purple (N7a). Imprint/plate block of 6	£4.50
(b)	As above. Counter coil pair (NC1j)	£1.25
633 (a)	8d Rose-Carmine (N8a). The three basic shades of rose-carmine, dull rose-carmine, and pink-carmine	£1.75
(b)	As above. The scarce pale pink shade (the major part of the small printing in this shade was apparently used in the manufacture of counter coils — as was this example). Normal shade included for comparison	£50.00
(c)	As above. Both imprint/plate blocks of 6 (nos. 10 and 20)	£9.00
(d)	As above. Two different papers, thick and thin	£2.00
(e)	As above. Counter coil pair (NC1k), the two stamps in contrasting shades of rose-carmine and pink-carmine	£6.00
(f)	As above. Counter coil pair (NC3e), the two stamps showing fine paper contrasts	£5.00
634 (a)	9d (N9a). Four fine contrasts of the green frame. Lovely	£3.75
(b)	As above. Set of four plate blocks (1A1A, 1B1B, 1A2A, 1B2B) plus an imprint block — 4 stamps each block	£20.00
(c)	As above. Combined imprint and plate (1B2B) block of 12 stamps (the imprint appears under columns 5 and 6, the plate numbers under 9 and 10)	£15.00
(d)	As above. Set of 5 sheet value blocks of 4, including the four altered states (as illustrated on permanent page N9 of our Catalogue), plus a 'normal' £6 sheet value	£30.00
(e)	As above. Three marginal blocks of 4 all showing different perforation characteristics — (i) 19 pins in the vertical "legs" of the comb perforator,	

	perforated bottom to top (normal); (ii) 19 pins, perf'd top to bottom; (iii) 18 pins, perforated bottom to top. Full details provided	£15.00
(f)	As above. Two imprint blocks of 4 (both incidentally with R7/5 and 8/5 frame re-entries), one showing the additional R7/5 frame flaw, the other with the flaw retouched (NV9a (b and c)). The two variety blocks	£40.00
(g)	As above. Set of all three 9d counter coil pairs, NC5a (scarce), NC6a and NC7a — incidentally all with different coil numbers	£17.50
(h)	As above. Complete set of NC7a counter coil pairs (nos. 1 — 19). Cat. \$ 152.	£42.50
635(a)	1/- Centre Die 1a (N10a). Four different frame contrasts, bright to deep carmine. Lovely	£3.00
(b)	As above. Set of 4 plate blocks (1A1A, 1B1B, 1A2A, 1B2B) plus an imprint block — 4 stamps per block	£20.00
(c)	As above. Six different sheet value blocks, including four of the five altered 1/- sheet values illustrated on permanent page N9 of our Catalogue, together with a normal £8 and the original but peculiar 8£ marking, lovely ..	£35.00
(d)	As above. Two different papers, one thick, the other thin	£3.00
(e)	As above. Unmounted mint copy of the major error Double Centre Print, one Albino (blurred centre) — plus normal copy for comparison. Cat. \$ 65 and offered at	£22.50
(f)	As above. Two blocks of 4 with flaw and retouch states of the plate 1B R8/5 centre variety (NCV2 f and g)	£12.50
(g)	As above. Two matching plate 1B2B blocks of 6, showing the R6/10 centre variety in second flaw and second retouch states (NCV5 d and e)	£15.00
(h)	As above. Corner block of 8 showing the "common" second retouch frame variety at R5/2, together with a block of 4 including the very rare first retouch of the same variety. A superb opportunity (Cat. \$ 420)	£125.00
(i)	As above. Marginal block of 6 (also showing the R5/2 second frame retouch) with R6/3 centre variety two flaws between eyebrows (NCV4c)	£10.00
(j)	As above. Four corner blocks of 4, showing all four states of the R7/2 frame variety — pre flaw, flaw, first and second retouches (NV10a (c — f)). Superb.....	£37.50
(k)	As above. Corner block of 8 (pl. 1B) with frame varieties at R1/10, 2/10, 3/10, 4/10 (NV10a(k)) — few splitting perfs.	£4.00
(l)	As above. Imprint block of 6 (pl. 1B2B) with the R6/5 frame retouch (mentioned in Vol 4 of the N.Z. Handbooks)	£7.50
(m)	As above. Set of five vertical counter coil pairs, (i) NC6b with upright coil no.; (ii) NC6c with sideways coil no.; (iii) NC7b with inverted coil no.; (iv) NC7b Y and X with narrow and trimmed gutters. All with different coil nos. for easy identification	£17.50