

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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VOLUME XXIII

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DECEMBER 1985

From all of us
to
All of you, world wide,
A Happy Christmas
and a
Prosperous, Peaceful,
and Philatelically Rewarding
Year Ahead

N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

1947 Healths — Some Remarkable New Discoveries. A collection we acquired recently included several blocks with abnormally wide top selvage (from mis-cut sheets), showing part or complete "job numbers". These are effectively plate numbers, engraved by Waterlow & Sons on the plates they produced for this and several other issues (including most values of the 1946 Peace set, and the 1946 Health stamps). Due to their positioning near the edge of the plate, and thus well away from the impressions, these numbers do not normally appear on issued sheets, having been guillotined off during the final trimming process, and examples are therefore quite scarce and desirable. However, the real surprise was not in the numbers themselves, but in the series of "shift markings" occurring alongside and to the right of the job number. Previously, these interesting markings — in the form of varying groups of dots in the colours of the stamps concerned — have been recorded only on certain values of the 1936–43 Pictorials (4d, 5d, 6d, 8d), and then only on some of the plates from which Waterlows made emergency printings for a few months when De La Rue & Co. (the contracted printers) were unable to maintain production due to blitz damage to their premises in late 1940/early 1941. We published a detailed article on these latter markings in our N.Z. Bulletin of September 1978.

Until the discovery of the 1947 Health blocks, it had been assumed, by this writer at least, that these "shift markings" were a short-lived phenomenon which ended with the handing back to De La Rue of the Pictorial plates (although of course the dots which had already been engraved on these plates by Waterlows continued to appear on sheets when De La Rues resumed printing, and remained in evidence until the plates concerned were superseded). According to Volume 2 of the N.Z. Handbook, Waterlows explained that the dots on the Pictorial plates were markings of their Bank Note Department to indicate to them on which shift a particular sheet had been printed, and that varying numbers of dots on sheets of the same value indicated different shifts. Another explanation, related to me informally, is that there were internal disputes within the printing works as to which shift had printed what; in order to overcome these, the system of marking was evolved quite unofficially by the printing staff themselves; and when it came to the notice of the management, the practice was frowned upon and forbidden forthwith. This second version now seems unlikely to be accurate, unless it took a very considerable time for the management to become aware of it!

The following, then, is a checklist of items seen. Naturally it is not necessarily complete, and we should be extremely interested to learn of any additions (whether in the 1947 Healths, or in any other issue printed by Waterlow & Sons.)

- 1d + ½d** Blocks showing job no. 43443:
- (i) Without dots
 - (ii) With four dots (in two rows of two)

Both of the above were in blocks having the job number complete, so each of the shift markings may also be confidently taken to be complete.

- Block showing job no. 43444:
With two dots (one below the other)

This was a complete offset impression on the back of the selvage.

- 2d + 1d** Blocks showing job no. 43446:
- (i) With one dot
 - (ii) With two dots (in a horizontal row)
 - (iii) With six dots (in a somewhat crooked horizontal row)

All the 2d examples were on blocks with selvedge wide enough only to show part of the job number (about 50–60%). It is possible, therefore, that in all three cases the markings as seen may be incomplete, and that there may be further dots **above** those present on the blocks.

The collection also included several other interesting varieties, not previously recorded (not connected in any way with the shift markings). I shall describe these in another note next month.

British Philatelic Exhibition 1985. New Zealand seemed to be even better represented than usual this year (in the competitive frames if not on the dealers' stands!) Our congratulations to all of the following on their awards:

Silver Medals: A.P. Berry (Official Postal Stationery); J.G. Evans (1893–4 Adson).

Bronze-Silver Medals: J.D. Evans (Early Cancellations); J.G. Evans (Manuscript Cancellations); J.A.W. Smith (Q.E. Middle Values).

Bronze Medals: R.C.R. Henderson (19th Century Issues); E.W. Leppard (1d Universal Waterlow Trial Plates); R.M.J. Smith (1970 Pictorials).

Diplomas: Mrs. H.A. Mallin (Air Mails – Sqn. Ldr. McGregor); G.K. Molland (R.T.P.O.'s).

Junior Classes: Bronze Medal: S.D. Gillmore (1855–1908 Issues).

Diploma of Merit: D.J. Armitage (Healts).

MISCELLANY

- | | | |
|------|--|---------|
| 1201 | 1d Universal Used Varieties. A bumper lot of 76 items (singles, pairs and strips), each showing a re-entry or a retouch – actually the variety count is somewhat higher, since some of the multiples include more than one. Possibly a little duplication, but a wonderful lot to fill most of the holiday period with fascinating philatelic interest. The stamps are sorted into individual issues, but we have left the fun of discovering and identifying the varieties to the purchaser, A lovely 'meaty' lot for someone at | £87.50 |
| 1202 | 1d Universal Booklet Pane. Mint pane of 6, complete with binding selvedge, in superfine condition. This example is pane No. 1 as listed in the G.R. Lee '1d Universal' monograph, and thus includes the good re-entry on stamp no. 2. The scarce pane (W2(Z)) | £230.00 |
| 1203 | 1907–08 1/- Reduced Design. Mint copy in the rare orange-brown (E19b(2)). Hinged but fine, and shade guaranteed, of course | £200.00 |
| 1204 | K.G. V Officials, Recess Prints. Something extra-special – a set of six magnificent mint blocks of 4, one of each value (3d, 4d, 6d, 8d, 9d, 1/-). All in quite superb condition, and seldom offered in blocks | £925.00 |
| 1205 | 1935 Pictorials. Short set of 12 used blocks of 4 (½d – 1/- complete), each stamp in each block individually cancelled by the Bulls c.d.s. of 1st May 1935 – the first day of issue of the stamps. A most unusual and attractive group. Cat. over \$ 175 | £75.00 |

1206	K.G.VI Rarity (i). Superfine mint copy of the 2d with variety inverted watermark (M6a(Y)). One of the best of all modern 'inverts' — all known examples emanate from counter rolls, and from the incidence of counter coil pairs including the variety, it seems probable that just two sheets were issued in this form	£40.00
1207	K.G.VI Rarity (ii). Imprint/plate block of 8 of the 1d in green (M2c), with plate no. 26. Together with plate 126 (also, curiously, in the 1d green), this is the outstanding gem amongst all George VI plate blocks. A couple of tiny specks on the gum, otherwise immaculate, and probably the finest of the few examples extant	£395.00
1208	1933 Health. Marginal copy showing the R1/4 Flaw in Clouds — very similar to, but less well-known than, the R2/1 and 3/3 flaws, since unlike the latter two, it was not retouched, and remained constant throughout all sheets printed. Superb mint unhinged	£15.00
1209(a)	P.O.W. Aerogramme. Unused example of the 1944 1/- issue (Samuel GA4a). Tuck-in flap at back slightly damaged, but facially superb. Scarce, interesting and desirable item of N.Z. postal stationery	£85.00
	(b) As above. 1945 6d Prisoner of War Post aerogramme (Samuel GA8a), unused and in immaculate condition	£127.50

CHRISTMAS OFFER OF THE MONTH

In fact, **two** of them — available to Bulletin subscribers only.

1210(a)	1d Universal. Finest unhinged mint block of 4 of the London Print (G1a). Cat. \$ 17.50 (S.G. £8) per stamp	£15.00
	(b) As above. Similarly superb unhinged block of 4, but on the unwatermarked Cowan paper (G4a). Cat. \$ 25 (S.G. £14) per stamp	£22.50

KING GEORGE VI, Continued

1211(a)	1/3d Wmk. Sideways, frame Die 1a (M14a). The three listed shades of the brown centre, mint	£3.00
	(b) As above. The same three shades, mint blocks of 4	£12.00
	(c) As above. Two notably different papers, one thick, the other thin, mint ...	£5.00
	(d) As above. Set of 2 plate blocks of 4 (2-1, 3A-1) mint	£12.50
	(e) As above. Mint copy with inverted watermark (M14aZ)	£3.25
	(f) As above. The same inverted wmk. variety, but mint block of 4	£13.00
	(g) As above. Two lovely chocolate shades, both inverted wmk., mint	£7.50

(h) As above. Plate (3A-1) block of 4, also with inverted watermark. Mint, and unusual	£20.00
(i) As above. Used copy with wide misplacement of centre. Nice!	£6.00
(j) As above. Two mint plate (2-1) blocks of 6, showing R15/3 frame flaw and re-entry - MFV 14a(a + b)	£27.50
(k) As above. Another plate block of 6 with the R15/3 re-entry, this time plate nos. 3A-1. Mint	£13.50
(l) As above. Two mint marginal blocks of 6, both showing R10/3 frame flaw. The first block (from plate 2-1) also shows the R9/3 centre flaw, while the second block (from plate 3A-1) shows the R10/2 frame flaw (not seen on printings from plate 2-1). A lovely pair of blocks	£20.00
(m) As above. Mint marginal block of 6, with R9/3 and 10/3 flaws	£9.50
(n) As above. Complete set of counter coil pairs (MC2q) nos. 1-19. (Cat. \$ 237.50).	£75.00
(o) As above. MC2q counter coil pair, showing two lovely frame shades	£6.00
(p) As above. Another coil pair, the upper stamp with R16/10 centre flaw	£5.00
(q) As above. Counter coil pair, showing (in the gutter) the brown cross scratched above R1/10 in large sheets from plate 2-1	£5.00
1212(a) 1/3d Wmk. Sideways, frame Die 1b (M14b). The two listed shades, mint ...	£2.25
(b) As above. Corner block of 4 with plate no. 3A-2	£6.00
(c) As above. Two different papers, one thick, the other thin, mint	£5.00
(d) As above. Mint copy with inverted watermark (M14bZ) - much scarcer than the 'invert' found on the first 1/3d issue	£11.50
(e) As above. Another mint copy with inverted watermark (M14bZ), this one showing the R13/5 frame retouch MFV14b(b). Unusual!	£15.00
(f) As above. Mint plate block of 20, including R13/5 'die 1a' frame retouch. MFV14b(b). Superb	£30.00
(g) As above. Mint plate block of 12, including R16/6 frame retouch MFV 14b(a)	£22.50
(h) As above. Complete set of counter coil pairs (MC2r), nos 1-19 (Cat. \$ 237.50)	£75.00
(i) As above. Counter coil pair, stamps showing differing shades of the brown centre	£6.00
1213(a) 1/3d Upright Watermark (M14c). Two fine centre (brown) shades, mint ..	£4.00
(b) As above. Three very nice frame (blue) shades, mint	£6.00

(c) As above. Plate (4-2) block of 4, mint	£10.00
(d) As above. The rare plate block on this paper (3A-2). This example is without side selvage and is offered at (Cat. \$ 385)	£40.00
(e) As above. Magnificent mint plate (4-2) block of 24, including R13/5 "die 1a" frame retouch and R16/6 frame retouch (MFV14b(a + b). Cat. \$ 108 as single stamps	£45.00

(to be concluded)

FIRST PICTORIALS USED (Continued).

1214 (a) 6d Reduced Design, Perf. 14 (E15a). Single copy	£3.00
(b) As above. Set of four fine shades, complete as listed with the exception of the very rare pale rose. Cat. \$ 135	£30.00
1215 (a) 6d Reduced Design, Perf. 14 x 12½ - 13¼ (E15b). A superb and perfectly centred copy of this scarce stamp	£40.00
(b) As above. Not quite so well centred example, but certainly well above average for this, and otherwise fine	£22.50
1216 (a) 6d Reduced Design, Perf. 14 x 15 (E15c). Single copy	£3.00
(b) As above. Nothing we'd class among the scarce aniline shades here, but nonetheless a set of no less than six excellent shades, including at least one with a definite rose content, not listed for this issue	£25.00
(c) As above. Set of two different re-entries, one of which is in pair with a normal stamp. This latter variety is most peculiar. There is extensive doubling indicating that the first impression was slightly low and to the left, but the outline of the Kiwi's back is clearly doubled upwards. The only logical explanation is that this is an unrecorded double re-entry	£17.50
1217 (a) 6d Official, Perf. 14 (EO14g). Single copy. Cat. \$ 35	£7.50
(b) As above. Two super pink shades	£15.00
(c) As above. Magnificent used block of 4 (c.d.s. June 1908)	£35.00
(d) As above. Strip of 3, including (on the right hand stamp) the R9/12 'Z' flaw	£25.00
1218 (a) 6d Reduced Design, Perf. 14 x 12½ - 13¼ (EO15b). Single copy, well centred for this issue	£15.00
(b) As above, but average centring	£9.00
1219 6d Reduced Design, Perf. 14 x 15. (EO15c). Single copy, well-centred	£15.00

1220(a) 8d War Canoe, London Print (E16a).	Single copy	£8.50
(b) As above.	Two superb shades, indigo and prussian blue, as listed	£17.50
1221(a) 8d Perf. 11, No Wmk. (E16b).	Single copy	£6.00
(b) As above.	Three beautiful shade contrasts	£18.50
1222(a) 8d Perf. 11, Wmk'd. (E16c).	Single copy	£6.00
(b) As above.	Set of three glorious shades, as listed	£18.50
(c) As above.	Similar trio of shades, but all with wmk. inverted-and-reversed. Unusual	£22.50
1223(a) 8d Perf. 14 (E16d).	Single copy	£3.75
(b) As above.	Excellent shades of steel blue and deep blue. The two	£7.75
(c) As above.	The same two shades, but in fine horizontal pairs	£15.00
1224(a) 9d Pink Terrace, London Print (E17a).	Single copy	£9.50
(b) As above.	Set of three in very pronounced shades — unusual on the 'London' 9d	£30.00
1225(a) 9d Perf. 11, No Wmk. (E17b).	Single copy	£3.75
(b) As above.	The three listed shades of purple, deep purple and rosy purple. Magnificent!	£12.50
1226(a) 9d Perf. 11, Wmk'd. (E17c).	Single copy	£3.75
(b) As above.	Two beautifully contrasting purple shades	£7.50
(c) As above.	A supreme shade set of four — deep purple, purple, reddish purple, and the scarce brownish-lake	£25.00
(d) As above.	Copy with variety Watermark Inverted-and-Reversed (E17c(X)). Couple of short perms., hence	£12.50
(e) As above.	Another watermark variety — this one Reversed (E17c(W))	£25.00
1227(a) 9d Perf. 14 (E17d).	Single copy	£3.50
(b) As above.	The listed shades of purple and reddish purple — violently different, these. The two	£7.50
1228(a) 1/- Kea & Kaka, London Print (E18a).	Single copy	£11.50
(b) As above.	Set of three, in the Catalogued shades of orange-red, dull red and brownish orange	£32.50

(c) As above. Example of a typical London 1/- re-entry, with doubling in the upper part of the design and, most notably, the vertical stroke of T of POSTAGE completely doubled to the left	£18.50
1229(a) 1/- Perf. 11, No. Wmk. Single copy	£2.50
(b) As above. Set of six brilliant shades, complete as listed in our Catalogue. Cat. \$ 140, a dazzling display at only	£32.50
1230 1/- Abnormal Issue (E18c, S.G.371a). One of the great rarities of the entire Pictorial issue, with the 7mm wmk. (W4) as found in the Q.V Sideface issues. First recorded in 1950 (in the C.P. Newsletter, incidently) only a few copies are known, all used, and all with the wmk. inverted. This example is clean, fresh and perfectly sound, but is cancelled with a manuscript date, indicating fiscal usage. Cat. \$ 1250, S.G. £1100 (postally used). An opportunity to fill a near-impossible gap	£65.00
1231(a) 1/- Perf. 11, Wmk'd. (E18d). Single copy	£2.00
(b) As above. A shades set to rival that of the unwmk'd issue offered above. Again complete in the six listed variations	£17.50
1232(a) 1/- Perf. 14 (E18e). Single copy	£2.50
(b) As above. Set of all five Catalogued shades	£22.50

(To be continued)

RECENT ISSUES

1985 Military History (Navy), 25c, 45c, 60c, 75c — issued 6. 11. 85	
Mint set of 4 stamps	£1.55
Complete set of 4 plate blocks (6 stamps each block)	£10.75
Complete set of 4 sheet value blocks (4 stamps per block)	£7.25
Official Illustrated First Day Cover (Wanganui pmk.)	£1.65
Miniature Sheet, all 4 stamps se-tenant — selvedge design features the ANZCAN cable linking Australia, N.Z., Fiji, Hawaii and Canada. Mint	£1.55
Mini Sheet on Official FDC (Wanganui pmk)	£2.50
1985 Stamp Year Collectors Pack. 23 commemorative stamps (1984 Army to 1985 Christmas issues) housed in an attractive folder, featuring the 1935 ½d Fantail. Post paid	£11.25
1985 First Day Cover Collectors Pack. 9 FDC.s (1984 Army to 1985 Christmas issues) housed in a decorative folder, Post paid	£15.00
1985 N.Z. Stamp Collection. Housed in its own lavishly illustrated and written up regal red album, with matching slip-in case. The pamphlet enclosed with this Bulletin gives further details, together with a general flavour of the collection. Post paid	£24.75