

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



PUBLISHED BY CAMPBELL PATERSON LTD.
P.O. BOX 17, WOKING, SURREY GU22 7BL
ISSUED MONTHLY ☎ WOKING (04862) 5887



All lots offered on approval subject to being unsold
Postage and Insurance/Registration extra on all orders
(U.K. : 40p up to £100, £2.00 over £100, Overseas at cost)

VOLUME XXIV

NUMBER 10

MAY 1987

N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

The Plate Identification Marks of the ½d Mt. Cook. Eight plates were used for printing the green ½d Mt. Cook. These fall neatly into two groups of four — those of 1900, and the Perkins, Bacon quartet of 1907. The latter are quite straightforward. They were numbered 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the familiar Perkins, Bacon style, the properly engraved numbers appearing in the selvedge above the first stamp in the issued sheets.

The earlier group are much more complex and interesting. Their features and characteristics ought in theory to bear a strong resemblance to the first four 'Local' plates of the 1d Universal (which were dealt with in my February Bulletin note). And superficially they do just that. They were made by the same company (Waterlow and Sons), they were of the same size and format, they were four in number, they were near-contemporaries, and they had scratched-in numbers added after their arrival in New Zealand. But there the apparent similarities end.

Published information on the identification markings of these four plates is rather scattered, and at least partly inaccurate. The N.Z. Handbook, Vol. 1, records that: "The plates, as forwarded, were stamped 1, 2, 3 and 4, respectively, near the middle of the top edge, but as these markings were some distance from the top row of impressions they do not show on the printed sheet, and sheets from the first printings show no distinguishing marginal marks. At a later stage six divisional arrows were engraved on the plates — three at the top and three at the bottom — at the usual places to facilitate the separation of sheets into set amounts. In addition to these arrows, and in order to check the production from the various plates, the plate numbers were scratched in duplicate on the plates below the bottom central arrow, and both scratched numbers show on the selvedge of the printed sheet. In each of the four plates the numbers scratched immediately below the central arrow printed correctly, but in the case of plates 2, 3 and 4 the additional number appears in reverse and is situated lower down. The additional numbers 1, 3 and 4 are seen below the 12th stamp of the bottom row, while the reversed 2 appears below the 13th stamp. As these numbers were only lightly scratched the wearing of the plates tended to obliterate them, so, at a subsequent stage, the numbers immediately below the central arrow were again scratched over the original numbers and in some instances the double scratching is clearly discernible, particularly with plate 2. A further plate marking to indicate the number was also added in the form of more deeply engraved short vertical lines, which show on the printed sheet to the lower right of the central arrow."

Volume 6 of the Handbook records: "A part sheet of an early printing of the ½d in pale yellow green on Pirie paper has no arrows but the reversed figure 4 appears on the selvedge the distance of one stamp below number 12 of the bottom row." Effectively this partly corrects the information carried in Volume 1.

In our N.Z. Bulletin of November 1977, I reported having seen a complete sheet without selvedge arrows, and with a scratched number 3 in reverse low in the selvedge below R10/12. (The same sheet passed through my hands again recently, and I can confirm that it too was in the pale yellow green on Pirie paper.)

In the "New Zealand Stamp Collector" of June 1981, an article by R.H.J. Currie, based on a study of eighteen plate markings and taking account of the information already published in the Handbooks, concluded that:

- (i) The wrong-reading numbers (i.e. those below the 12th or 13th stamp in the bottom row) were scratched into the plates immediately on arrival in New Zealand, when it was realised that the stamped numbers at the top would be too high up to show on the printed sheets.
- (ii) The right-reading numbers (i.e. those below the central arrow) were scratched in some time later, at the same time as the arrows themselves were engraved.
- (iii) These numbers were **never** re-scratched, despite the quite specific Handbook statements to the contrary.
- (iv) The 'Short vertical lines' markings were added when the plates had become worn, and "blocks showing these come from the later Cowan watermarked paper printings."
- (v) These line markings appear between the arrow and the number immediately below it.

I question points (i), (iv) and (v) above. In my 1977 note, I suggested that the wrong-reading numbers were added to the plates **by the makers** (i.e. Waterlows), for their own internal convenience, and there has been no later evidence to weaken this theory. In fact I now think it highly probable that these markings were inscribed on the plates before the impression of the designs were rolled in. My reasoning is quite simple. Bearing in mind that "wrong-reading" on the sheet is "right-reading" on the plate (and vice-versa), I believe that these numbers were purely **platemaker's** marks to identify **chunks of metal**, whereas the numbers which are right-reading on the sheet were **printer's** marks to identify **sheets**, as a check on production from particular plates. There are certain other markings (e.g. on the 1d Terraces, and on at least one of the Waterlow sample sheets) which are of an instructional or informative nature of interest to the platemaker, but of none to the printer, which support my theory, and these all appear in reverse on the printed sheet.

My second doubt also concerns timing. The conclusion that the vertical line markings were late additions, to overcome the difficulties caused by the weakening, through plate wear, of the scratched numbers, seems logical enough. **Except that** I have a note of this marking (from plate 3) **on Basted Mills paper**. So either these dashes were added much earlier than is assumed or (much less likely) some Basted Mills paper was used late in the life of the plates.

My third and final query raises an even more perplexing mystery. Mr. Currie states that his example of the 'Dot-plates type' marking is a plate 3 one, and his article is quite specific on the positioning of the dashes. I quote: "The later short vertical lines were drawn in between the top figure and the arrow"! (this incidentally corresponds approximately with the Handbook statement). Yet the marking I saw — from the same plate, I emphasise again — was placed to the right of the **top** of the arrow. I made particular note of this point at the time, since it was at variance with the Handbook information.

Be all of that as it may, it is quite certain that plate blocks of these ½ds may be found in

three distinct forms, even if all the differences of paper and perforation are ignored:

- (a) With wrong-reading scratched number only
- (b) as (a) but with the addition of divisional arrow and right-reading scratched number below.
- (c) As (b) but with the further addition of the 'vertical-dash' markings.

Truly a fruitful area of study for the specialist.

VARIETY FANFARE

A wide selection of items from our current stock, all with that 'something different' appeal to enhance a collection.

501	First Sideface 1/-. Good used copy, perf. 10 x 12½ (in itself a very scarce stamp), with variety Watermark Inverted (C6bZ). Rare! Variety unpriced, but Cat. \$ 225 as a normal	£60.00
502	Second Sideface ½d. Fine used copy from the 1900 'Waterlow' paper provisional issue, with major flaw "HAIF" for "HALF" (D1hX)	£30.00
503(a)	Second Sideface 1d. Mint copy, perf. 10 x 11 or perf. 11, with the very prominent "Feather in Hair", otherwise known as the 'Screwdriver' flaw. (D2mT or D2pU), each	£10.00
	(b) As above. Set of three used, perf. 10, 10 x 11 and 11, all with the same big 'screwdriver' flaw	£10.00
504	Second Sideface 2½d. Used example, perf. 11, with the major but seldom seen constant flaw on '2½' (D4jX)	£15.00
505	Second Sideface 1/-. Fine mint copy, perf. 10, with the spectacular, and very unflattering, "Bulbous Nose" flaw (D10eY)	£47.50
506	1898 1d Lake Taupo. Superb used copy with light but complete offset impression of the frame (brown) colour on back (E2aU). Normal stamp included for comparison	£11.50
507	1900 1d Terraces. Very fine used copy showing the major plate 2 R4/15 re-entry (EV3b). This is one of N.Z.'s finest re-entries — the outstanding feature is complete downward doubling of the tiers of terraces	£22.50
508(a)	1½d Boer War. Corner pair, perf. 11 (with sheet serial no.), including the R1/12 and 2/12 re-entries. The latter is, of course, a quite outstanding variety, with clear doubling of virtually the entire design. Stamps centred left, but mint unhinged	£30.00
	(b) As above. Single copy of the R2/12 re-entry, fine mint	£22.50
509	1898 2½d Wakitipu. The only variety of any note on this error-of-spelling stamp occurs on R11/9 (EV7a). Here offered in marginal mint pair with a normal	£16.50
510	3d Huia Official. Fine used pair, one with normal watermark, the other with complete letter wmk. Nice!	£7.50
511	6d Kiwi Official. Used copy with the good R9/12 Flaw on Z (EV14d)	£13.50

512(a)	2/- Milford Sound. Mint copy, perf. 11, with variety Watermark Inverted (E20dY). A scarce one	£47.50
(b)	As above. Another example, but fine used	£30.00
513(a)	½d Mt. Cook Green. Fine mint copy from the original plates, perf. 14, with variety Watermark Reversed (F4bX)	£15.00
(b)	As above. Marginal pair from the 1907–08 new plates with major error Imperforate (F5bZ). Superb fresh mint appearance, but minute hinge thin ..	£30.00
514	1d Universal Surface Print (G11a). Set of two corner pairs (full selvages), one from the top left of a sheet, the other from bottom left, yet both show a sheet serial number. Most unusual. One pair fine, the other a little stained ..	£40.00
515	½d Edward VII. Corner block of 6 including the little-known but constant Flaw on ½ (plate 10, R3/24). Stamps mint unhinged – minor gum-stain on one (not the variety) does not mar facial appearance	£22.50
516(a)	1d Dominion. “Feather”, “Broken Globe” and “Q” flaws – an attractive set of three good varieties, each in mint pair with a normal stamp (all De La Rue paper)	£20.00
(b)	As above. Major error Pair Imperforate, on Cowan paper (J6aY). Fine mint ..	£40.00
(c)	As above. Another imperf. pair, facial appearance excellent, but condition not quite so fine as the previous item	£17.50
(d)	As above. Vertical block of 6 on Cowan paper, the centre pair officially patched in. An unusual occurrence in the 1d Dominion. A couple of horizontal creases (possibly connected with the repair), otherwise fine	£27.50
517	K.G.V. 4d Yellow. Mint copy with the important R1/6 re-entry (important because it was one of the two re-entries necessitated by the original entry of an impression of a different value – in this case the 4½d)	£17.50
518	K.G.V. 4d Violet. Set of two used, showing the above R1/6 variety and the other (R4/10) re-entry occasioned by the original entry of a wrong value (in this case the 2½d). Examination of the photographs of the transfer roller, on page 313 of Vol. 2 of the N.Z. Handbook demonstrates how these errors were possible	£22.50
519	K.G.V. 5d. Scarce error Pair Imperforate (K7aY). Super appearance, but horizontal crease, hence only	£20.00
520	K.G.V. 2d. Surface Print. Unhinged mint copy on Wiggins Teape paper, perf. 14 showing variety Imperf. at top, with selvage (K18hX)	£19.50
521	K.G.V. 3d. Surface Print. Huge marginal block of 36, Cowan paper, perf. 14 x 15, showing the well-known Face Flaw (R6/8) in positional form – rare thus. Gum shows slight signs of ageing, but facial appearance lovely. (Cat. \$ 625)	£72.50

522	2/- Capt. Cook. A perfect mint unhinged well-centred example of the scarce 1939 perf. 13½ x 14 issue (L13d), without variety . Odd to find this in a varieties listing? Not really, for the curious fact is that most of the mint copies of this stamp one sees have the COOK flaw (when this issue was current, the flaw was well known, and preserved in some quantity, whereas the change of perf. was not widely noticed)	£75.00
523(a)	Q.E. 1/-. Unhinged mint copy with variety Double Print of Centre, One Albino (N10aX)	£22.50
(b)	As above. The same variety, but fine used	£15.00
524	1960 Pictorial 2d. Mint marginal copy with the green background colour totally missing from a large area at lower right (about one-third of the entire stamp). Not seen previously by us	£10.00
525	1960 Pictorial 2½d. Mint copy with only the black/grey colour where it ought to be. Green, red and brown are all wildly misplaced, resulting in a real fruit (and vegetable) salad!	£6.00
526	1970 Pictorial 2c Butterfly. Mint plate block of 10 with variety Watermark Inverted (P3aZ)	£16.50
527	1970 Pictorial 4c Moth. Plate block on unwmk'd paper with error Wing Veins Omitted, and only four plate numbers instead of the usual five (P6cZa). Cat. \$ 300. With normal matching plate block for comparison	£72.50
528	1970 Pictorial 15c Fish Hook. Variety Watermark Inverted (P13aZ), mint unhinged	£16.50
529(a)	1970 Pictorial 18c Club. Variety Watermark Inverted (P14aZ), mint unhinged .	£16.50
(b)	As above. Unhinged copy with brown colour misplaced to the right (fully 1mm), resulting in a very attractive 'highlighted club' effect	£7.50
530	1933 Health. Finest mint pair of the 'Pathway' design, one stamp showing the constant R5/5 variety, variously describable as the "Camp Site" or "Extra Pathway"	£13.50
531	1971 Health 3c. Copy with multicolour offset on back (T43aZ). Offset impression faint, but pretty	£12.50

OFFER OF THE MONTH

A most unusual bargain offer of a scarce major error.

532	1d Universal. Horizontal pair from Waterlow Trial Plate W2, with variety Imperf. Vertically (G9aZ). Cat. \$ 400 (S.G. £200). Finest mint, incredible value at	£50.00
-----	--	--------

THE 'WATERLOW' 1d UNIVERSAL OF 1906 – RARE TRIAL DIE PROOFS

In their preparatory work leading up to the production of plates W1 and W2, Waterlow Bros. and

Layton made a series of trial individual dies for test and comparison purposes, before settling on the 'five-unit' die which they finally used to lay down the plates.

Proofs from four such trial dies have been recorded. One of these is unnumbered, while the others show faint but discernible traces of scratched numbers 2, 3 and 4 respectively, centrally just below the impressions. Volume 4 of the N.Z. Handbook (on pp. 372-3) carries an extensive listing of proofs from three of the dies — the one numbered 4 is unlisted — but all are erroneously attributed to Messrs. Royle and Son, and the numbers have been interpreted as merely extraneous scratches.

There follows a rare offering of these philatelically and historically interesting test-pieces. All dimensions given relate to the size of paper (or card) on which the proof is printed.

533	Complete Set. Four proofs, printed in shades of carmine on thin white card, from Trial Dies 1 (the unnumbered one), 2, 3 and 4. Sizes 30 x 50 mm, 26 x 41 mm, 23 x 45 mm and 23 x 43 mm respectively. Condition superb, and all fully identified. The set of trial die proofs	£600.00
534(a)	Trial Die 1. Printed in black on medium white wove paper (43 x 42 mm). Superb	£165.00
(b)	As above. Another example, printed in brown on thin buff card (40 x 42 mm). Diagonal crease, unfortunately evident on the design side, hence	£40.00
(c)	As above. This one in black on thick coarse grey-green tinted paper (34 x 39 mm). Superb	£165.00
(d)	As above. Printed in black on thick blue laid paper (40 x 42 mm). Superb ..	£165.00
(e)	As above. Printed in deep rose carmine on thin white card (33 x 39 mm). Superb	£165.00
(f)	As above. Printed in black on thin white card (38 x 40 mm). Superb	£165.00
535(a)	Trial Die 2. Printed in black on medium white wove paper (26 x 45 mm). Superb	£165.00
(b)	As above. Printed in black on thick blue laid paper (28 x 38 mm). Superb..	£165.00
536(a)	Trial Die 3. Printed in scarlet on thin white card (22 x 33 mm). Light tone spot	£75.00
(b)	As above. Printed in deep brown-lake on medium white wove paper (22 x 29 mm). Light stain at top, clear of design	£95.00
537	Trial Die 4. Printed in bright red on thin white wove paper (22 x 33 mm). Superb	£165.00

RECENT DEFINITIVES, Concluded.

The final part of this extremely popular listing — Birds (arguably the most attractive design for many a year). Our listing is in order of issue.

538(a)	\$ 1 Kokako (PB12a), issued 24.4.85. Imprint block of 6	£4.75
---------------	--	-------

(b)	As above. Sheet value block of 4	£3.10
(c)	As above. Two sheet value blocks, right selvedge perforated and not perforated. The two blocks of 4	£6.20
539(a)	\$ 2 Black Robin (PB13a), issued 24.4.85. Imprint block of 6	£9.50
(b)	As above. Sheet value block of 4	£6.20
(c)	As above. Two sheet value blocks, right selvedge perforated and not perforated. The two blocks of 4	£12.40
540	\$ 1 and \$ 2. Birds on official illustrated First Day Cover (Wanganui pmk) ..	£3.00
541	\$ 1 and \$ 2. Birds presentation pack (post paid)	£5.50
542(a)	\$ 3 Stitchbird, issued 23.4.86. Imprint block of 6	£11.75
(b)	As above. Sheet value block of 4	£8.20
543(a)	\$ 4 Saddleback, issued 23.4.86. Imprint block of 6	£15.65
(b)	As above. Sheet value block of 4	£10.75
544	\$ 3 and \$ 4. Birds on official illustrated F.D.C. (Wanganui pmk)	£6.00
545	\$ 3 and \$ 4. Birds presentation pack (post paid)	£6.00
546(a)	30c Kakapo, issued 1.5.86. Imprint block of 6, original issue	£1.75
(b)	As above. Imprint block of 6, one-kiwi reprint below R10/2	£1.45
(c)	As above. Imprint block of 6, two-kiwi reprint below R10/2	£1.45
(d)	As above. Sheet value block of 4	£1.00
547(a)	45c Falcon, issued 1.5.86. Imprint block of 6	£2.25
(b)	As above. Sheet value block of 4	£1.50
548	30c and 45c. Birds on official illustrated F.D.C. (Wanganui pmk)	85p

(For the latest 40c and 60c Birds, see Recent Issues on back page)

KING GEORGE VI

A variety listing from our unrivalled stock. All offers are mint, many unmounted, and full description will be included where necessary.

549(a)	½d Green (M1a). All three listed shades	£5.75
(b)	As above. Inverted watermark variety (M1aZ)	£1.75
550(a)	½d Green, Official (MO 1a). Two copies, the overprints being black and grey-black	£7.50

(b)	As above. Marginal block of 4, with part of the punched green registration mark in the selvage. Brilliant unmounted	£15.00
551	½d Chestnut, Fine HM paper (M1b). Two attractive shades	50p
552(a)	½d Official, fine HM paper (MO1b). Two fine contrasts	£3.50
(b)	As above. Marginal block of 4, also with part of the punched registration hole in selvage (as lot 550b above, but this one in chestnut, of course, and again unhinged mint)	£6.50
553	½d Chestnut, fine VM paper (M1c). The two listed shades	50p
554(a)	½d Chestnut, coarse VM paper (M1d). The two Catalogued shades	60p
(b)	As above. Similar shade contrasts, this time two imprint/plate blocks (both pl. 111) of 6 stamps each block	£3.00
(c)	As above. Marginal block of 4, showing double perfs. in the selvage. Unusual ..	£7.50
(d)	As above. Marginal block of 10, plate 133, with R1/12 and 5/11 varieties ...	£9.50
(e)	As above. Corner block of 10, also plate 133, R3/23 and 5/24 varieties ...	£9.50
(f)	As above. Corner block of 4 (pl. 133) with R9/1, 10/1, 10/2 retouches ...	£7.50

(To be continued)

RECENT ISSUES

1987 40c + 60c Bird Definitives (issued 2.2.87). The 40c has been found on two distinctly different papers (the 60c being reported on only the one paper).

Mint set of 3 (40c x 2 papers, 60c x 1)	£1.05
Set of 3 imprint blocks of 6 (two x 40c, one x 60c)	£7.00
Set of 3 sheet value blocks of 4 (two x 40c, one x 60c)	£4.75
Official Illustrated F.D.C. (Wanganui pmk.), 40c + 60c stamps	95p

\$4 and \$4.40 Booklets, each includes one vertical pane of 10 (2 x 5) of the new 40c bird, attached by the top selvage:—

(i) plain binding selvage	£6.00
(ii) top selvage with "sheet-value" marking	£6.00
(iii) bottom selvage with "imprint" marking	£6.00

1987 Blue Water Classics (Yachting), 40c, 80c, \$1.05, \$1.30, issued 2.2.87.

Mint set of 4	£2.30
Set of 4 imprint blocks, 6 stamps per block (one block per value)	£16.00
Official Illustrated F.D.C. (Wanganui pmk.)	£2.50

Special Cancellations (1). Set of 8 postcards, one used on each day of the 1986 Tarapex Philatelic Exhibition, held in New Plymouth between 20 – 27th October – a different cancellation was used on each day (post paid)

£4.50

Special Cancellations (2). Eleven other special cancels used in 1986, each on postcard – good variety of events commemorated (post paid)

£5.75