

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

In addition to his interest in pre-adhesive postal markings (of which he formed a very fine collection, now dispersed), the late Michael Burberry had a consuming passion for early N.Z. social history. Among his philatelic papers there was a voluminous file of transcriptions of letters dating from around the 1840s and 1850s period. Many of these were in his own hand, and represent untold hours of enjoyable but often painstaking and laborious work, as anyone who has had any experience at all of trying to decipher early letters will readily appreciate. The resulting file gives a truly fascinating insight into many aspects of life in the primitive conditions prevailing in New Zealand at that time, and over the coming months it is my intention to reproduce some of these letters here, in the belief that they will prove to be as interesting to readers as they have been to me.

A British Army soldier's letter from the time of the first Maori War commences the series. It was written by "No. 1200 Privat Robert Miller 2nd Compyn 58 Regt New Zealand" to his family in England. Spelling and punctuation are unedited, and the occasional comment in parentheses does not form part of the original. The letter is headed "Whillinton New Zealand August the 18 1845" and reads:

"Dear Father and Mother Sisters and Brothers i now embrace this Preasant oportunity of wrighting these few lines to you Hoping to find you all in good health as it leaves me the more thank God for it Dear Friends i have bad news to tell you our Regt have all left Newsouthwales and are in New Zealand we have verry Bad luck since we been hear we have had two Engagements with the Blacks and our men as fell like rotten sheep in the first place before we came hear their was only one compyna of the 96 Regt at a place called the bay of Il and the Blacks came on them about a thousand strong and shot the sentrys on guard and Killed the Remainder of them and then Burnt down the British flagstaff (this would be Hone Heke's fourth burning down of a flagstaff, on March 11, 1845) and then the town But our men fought verry well But was obliged to Retreat till we came in the first place their was two hundred of us came in the North Star man of war + 26 Guns we came and cast anchor opsite the Bay and in the morning we were sent ashore and planted the British flag staff and Returned on Board for the night Next Morning we marched to Johnny Heki Pah (Hone Heke's pah at Puketutu) the fighting Black wi the utmost silence till we got within musket shot of the Place and then we

commenced a sharp fire on the Place for about seven hours But i am sorry to say of littell use as the Place was Musket Proof and so strong it was of no use our Cornell then decided on storming it on wich he ordered out a party consisting of our Graenideur compyna and light compyna and the 2nd compyna in which they did in Good order as we wear getting over they shot us off their walls like Birds in which our formost compynas lost all their men either Killed or wounded and the Brave Captain of the Graindiers they took him prisonr and burnt him alive after cutting the most fleshey part of his thys wile still alive (this sounds like the 1st July attack against Ohaea, when Capt Grant of the 58th Regiment suffered this fate, but the Grenadiers were the 96th Regiment) we have about one hundred and seven Killed and about 80 wounded Poor fellows it was a most shocking sight finding it of no use we retired a distance of 18 miles wear we halted that night Bringing our wounded with us June 1st going to attack the Pah again with two large guns and four Hundred men soildgers when we got within shot we commensd a heavy fire from the large guns in which they Retreated and we took the Pah in our Posseion and found six moanth Provisions and six guns in wich we Killed a bout two hundred of the savage bruts the reason all this row is about is a bout the land the wite peapoel Bought from them they want it Back again and they take every thing they grow we have retired to Pah and are waiting till reinforced from sidney i am righting and just receved orders to Embark for Wellington as their is no troops their and they say they will Burn that place i think we will stand a bad chanc with them as my Compyna is weak about 60 strong Dear Friends i do assure you i have had a great deal of Hardship and God Knows how it will end when you right direct to Private R Miller 2nd Compyna HM 58 Regt Wellington New Zealand or Elsewhere this is a verry Cold Country and the middel of winter good by and God Bless you all give my love to all inquiring friends"

There was also a second letter from the same soldier dated just three days later, relating virtually the same news to his sister in Chichester. Copies of the text of this letter can be supplied at 40p post paid to anyone interested.

KING GEORGE V BOOKLETS/PANES

A range of scarce material. All panes are of 6 stamps, and unless otherwise stated, are complete with all selvages intact.

- 601(a) ½d Green.** Pane on Cowan paper, perf. 14, with side selvedge bars (no adverts). Tone spot in selvedge (does not show on the front), otherwise lovely. The pane (W4f(Z)) £45.00
- (b) As above.** Pane on Cowan paper, perf. 14 x 15, with 'Abdulla' adverts on side selvages. No binding selvedge, and a couple of heavyish hingemarks, but facially superb (W4d(Z)) £50.00
- (c) As above.** Pane on Cowan reversed wmk. paper, with 'Kodak' adverts in selvages (W4e(Z)). Fine £80.00
- 602(a) 1d Field Marshal, Perf. 14, No Adverts (W4f(W)).** Pane from the top row of the printed sheet, with bars in side selvages, but no bars in binding selvedge. Superfine £70.00
- (b) As above.** Pane from the middle row of the printed sheet, with bars in side selvedge and double bars in binding selvedge. Superfine £70.00

603(a)	1d Field Marshal, Perf. 14, 'Parisian' Adverts (W4f(X)). Pane from the top row, with selvedge bars as in lot 602(a) above. Superfine	£70.00
(b)	As above. Pane from the middle row, with selvedge bars as in lot 602(b) above. Superfine	£70.00
(c)	As above. Pane from the bottom row, with binding selvedge (no bars) at the foot of the pane. Superfine	£75.00
(d)	As above. As will be evident from the foregoing, panes from the three horizontal blocks as printed are all clearly different, one from the other, and a set showing these differences makes for an attractive and extremely unusual page. If ordered as a set, lots 603(a), (b) and (c) will be supplied at the special inclusive price of	£200.00
(e)	As above. Pane showing the prominent re-entry on stamp No. 5 (W4f(T)). Being pane no. 8 from the top row, this variety pane invariably has the sheet serial number in the selvedge. Condition superfine	£140.00
604(a)	1d Field Marshal, Perf. 14 x 15, 'Parisian' Adverts (W4j(Z)). Pane from the top row, with selvedge bar characteristics as previously described. Minor gum tone does not mar superb appearance	£45.00
(b)	As above. Pane from the middle row. Superfine	£72.50
605(a)	Complete Booklet. 1924 2/- booklet containing three panes of 1d Dominion and two panes of ½d George V, all on Jones paper (W4c). All advertising interleaving is intact, and the whole is in astonishingly fine condition. RARE!	£525.00
(b)	As above. Another 2/- booklet (issued about 1929) with three panes of 1d Field Marshal, and two panes of ½d George V, all on Cowan paper, perf. 14, and with 'Parisian' adverts in side selvedges (W4f(c)). Again condition is quite extraordinarily fine, and again RARE!	£425.00

606

C.E. II RARITY

Imprint/plate block of 6 of the 2d on 1½d error of surcharge on the 'wrong' stamp (N41a). Very lightly hinged on one stamp only, otherwise sheer perfection. Cat. \$ 1650 (S.G. £110 per stamp), lovely buying at £475.00

1920 VICTORY ISSUE

An exceptional series of offers from this attractive commemorative set.

607(a)	½d Peace/Lion (S9a). Proof block of 4 from the 'spaced' trial plate (with 9mm margins between impressions, both horizontally and vertically). Printed in carmine on gummed unwmk'd paper, and each impression overprinted SPECIMEN in black. Condition superfine	£87.50
(b)	As above. Magnificent set of four blocks of 4 of the issued stamp, in the listed shades of green, deep green, yellow green and pale yellow green. Superfine mint (the scarce pale yellow green is unhinged)	£75.00
608(a)	1d Peace/Lion (S10a). Plate proof block of 4 printed in lilac on thick, gummed unwmk'd paper, perf 14, with black SPECIMEN overprint. Brilliant unhinged ..	£87.50

- (b) **As above.** Five superb shades of the issued stamp, ranging from deep carmine to pale carmine pink, each in unhinged or lightly hinged mint block of four. Beautiful material! £27.50
- 609 1½d Maori Warrior (S11a).** Four lovely mint blocks of 4 in shades of orange brown from deep to pale bright £8.50
- 610 2d on ½d Surcharge (S12a).** Three finest mint blocks of four in contrasting shades of green/yellow-green £16.50
- 611(a) 3d 'Landseer' Lion (S13a).** Proof block of 4 from the spaced trial plate, similar in all respects to lot 607(a) above, but of the 3d and printed in mauve. £87.50
- (b) **As above.** Mint block of 4 of the issued stamp in chocolate. Very fine £40.00
- (c) **As above.** Equally fine mint block of 4, but in deep chocolate £40.00
- 612(a) 6d Peace/Progress (S14a).** Trial plate proof block of 4 printed in blue, other details identical to lot 607(a) above £87.50
- (b) **As above.** Finest mint block of 4 in bright purple £47.50
- (c) **As above.** Another block, but in a notably deep shade. Minor perf. reinforcement, otherwise immaculate £60.00
- 613(a) 1/- King George V (S15a).** Trial plate proof block of 4, again matching lot 607(a) above, but of the 1/- printed in red-brown £87.50
- (b) **As above.** The issued stamp in superfine mint block of 4, in orange vermillion. One stamp lightly hinged £80.00
- (c) **As above.** A second block, this one in deep orange-vermillion, and mint unhinged £85.00

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| 614 | Victory Set on Cover! The six values as originally issued (no 2d on ½d surcharge) on registered cover from Auckland to Samoa, each stamp tied with Auckland c.d.s. of 24th July 1920. No doubt philatelic, but rare and attractive, despite vertical fold clear of stamps and reg'n label £100.00 |
|------------|--|

615 1930 HEALTH FIRST DAY COVER

Plain cover addressed to U.S.A. with 1930 Health stamp tied by neat clear Highfield c.d.s. of 29th Oct 1930 Beautifully clean and fresh.

The scarce early Health F.D.C. £100.00

616 1940 CENTENNIALS

A superb collection of 100 plate blocks, all different. Plate numbers are complete with the exception of the very rare 2d pl A7 and A8 and (curiously) the 10d surcharge pl C1, and include two examples of the 9d, with the redrawn '1' in two notably different positions. Condition is exceptionally fine mint throughout (many are unmounted). The collection of 100 plates, all in blocks of 4 bar the 1/-, which is in strip of 4, as usual. Cat. \$ 950+ £320.00

K.G.V. RECESS PRINTS – PROVING BLOCKS

From an entirely new stock – a marvellous selection of interesting, desirable and scarce material. Refer to the foot notes throughout the George V recess-print listings in the C.P. Catalogue for detailed guidance on proving blocks.

- 617(a) 1½d Grey.** Bottom left corner block of 4, perf. 14 x 13¼ (K1a), from the early sheets perforated with this head throughout. Mint unhinged £15.00
- (b) **As above.** Set of two marginal blocks of 4 – one block perf. 14 x 13¼ as above, the other perf. 14 x 14¼ (K1b), and thus from the bulk of the supply, in which the top four rows were perf. 14 x 13¼, the lower six rows 14 x 14¼. The two blocks, mint unhinged £23.50
- 618(a) 2½d Deep Blue.** Left marginal block of 4 perf. 14 x 13¼ (K3a) with (i) perforation guide hole and wmk. letters PO (of POSTAGE) in the selvedge, both demonstrating that the block is from rows 7 and 8 in the sheet: and (ii) brownish gum. Thus from the small early printing perf. 14 x 13¼ throughout. Curiously the textbooks imply that this printing was in the deep blue shade, but our block is quite definitely a slate-blue. Superfine mint (one stamp very lightly hinged) £30.00
- (b) **As above.** Bottom left corner block of 4, also perf. 14 x 13¼ and also in slate blue, but with colourless gum, and thus from the later printings in which '14 x 13¼ throughout' was normal. Mint unhinged £23.50
- 619(a) 4d Yellow.** Bottom left corner block of 4, perf. 14 x 13¼ (K5a), thus from the very small first printing – the great majority of 4d yellow sheets were 'two-perf'. The very scarce proving block, perfect mint unhinged £40.00
- (b) **As above.** Another '14 x 13¼ throughout' proving block, this one from rows 6 and 7 (established by the perf. guide hole and wmk. letters POST in the left selvedge). Again superb unhinged £37.50
- (c) **As above.** A magnificent top left corner block of 30 (6 x 5), with full corner selvedge, plate no. 20, and the major R1/6 re-entry. Again all stamps are perf. 14 x 13¼, thus proving the first printing. A little corner selvedge toning detracts but little from a beautiful and rare piece, nicely displayed on an album leaf with full annotation and hand-drawn illustration of the re-entry £200.00
- (d) **As above.** Another brilliant block of 30, matching the previous item in every way **except** that it comes from a 'normal' sheet in which the top four rows were perf. 14 x 13¼, the bottom six 14 x 14¼. Thus in this block rows 4 and 5 comprise six two-perf. pairs. Condition immaculate. A superb page in its own right – or even more so as a companion to the previous block £175.00
- (e) **As above.** Corner block of 15 (3 x 5), with sheet serial number, and including the other major re-entry at R4/10. Block is perf. 14 x 13¼ throughout, therefore again demonstrably from the small first printing. Crease high in top selvedge, and two stamps with insignificant facial marks, otherwise superb £125.00
- (f) **As above.** Matching block of 15, but from a normal two-perf. sheet, thus the big re-entry appears in two-perf. pair in truly positional block! Condition yet again brilliant £125.00

- 620 4d Violet (Plate 20).** A proving block with an added and most unusual difference. Bottom left corner block of 4, perf. 14 x 13½ (K5d), proving it to be from the later (1922–26) printings, but the absence of plate wear indicates the earlier of those dates. The 'difference' takes the form of a sheet serial number (inverted) in the bottom selvedge, obviously placed there in error, and officially obliterated by two printed bars. First example of such an error we have seen. The block, superfine mint unhinged £65.00
- 621(a) 4d Deep Purple (Plate 44).** Bottom left corner block of 4, perf. 14 x 13½ (K5h), including the listed R10/2 re-entry (minor). This block must be from a rare two-perf. sheet, or an equally rare sheet 14 x 13½ throughout. Mint unhinged £110.00
- (b) As above.** Bottom right corner block of 6, perf. 14 x 13½, so from one of the two rare sources mentioned in the previous lot. This block shows the listed R10/11 and 10/12 re-entries, and as a final touch of interest, has the complete dandy roll no. '4' wmk'd in the corner of the selvedge. Mint unhinged, minor gum adhesions being confined almost entirely to the selvedge £160.00
- (c) As above.** The ultimate in proving pieces — a complete vertical strip of 10, with top and bottom selvedge, from a sheet with the top five rows perf. 14 x 14½, and the bottom five 14 x 13½, thus including what is far and away the rarest of the K.G.V two-perf. pairs (K5j). Hinged in three places, but superbly fresh and fine, and possibly unique in this form (for the record, the strip is vertical column 10 in the sheet, proved by — among other characteristics — the R7/10 re-entry) £1000.00
- 622(a) 7½d Deep Red Brown.** Matching bottom left corner blocks of 4, one perf. 14 x 13½ (K9a) — from the early '14 x 13½ throughout' printings — and the other perf. 14 x 14½ (K9b), from the 1920–22 'two-perf' printings. The twin proving blocks, both mint unhinged £97.50
- (b) As above.** Left marginal block perf. 14 x 13½ and demonstrably from the lower part of a sheet (the selvedge perf. guide hole plates the block to rows 6 and 7), and thus from the earlier printings. Mint unhinged £33.50

KING GEORGE VI Continued

Fresh stock enables a recap on last month's listing as well as a continuation to the 1d value. All stamps are mint and where necessary full annotation will be included.

- 623(a) ½d Green (M1a).** Plate block of 4, pl. no. 2 £8.25
- (b) As above.** Imprint block of 8 £14.50
- 624 ½d Green, Official (MO1a).** Plate block of 4, plate number 2 £15.00
- 625 ½d Chestnut, coarse paper, Official (MO1d).** Two fine shade contrasts £3.50
- 626(a) 1d Scarlet (M2a).** The two listed shades, scarlet and rose. Brilliant contrasts £4.75
- (b) As above.** Two imprint/plate blocks of 4, plate nos 25 and 26 (although we list these plates as blocks of 8, the two blocks of 4 offered, show the full imprint and plate nos.). Cat. \$ 120 £20.00

(c)	As above. Single copy showing the plate 8, R6/6 "Medallion" flaw (MV2a(g)) — one of the very few naked-eye varieties in the George VI issues	£7.50
(d)	As above. Booklet pane of 6, watermark upright (W6aZ), and full perfs! ...	£17.50
(e)	As above. Similar booklet pane of 6, but watermark inverted (W6aY). Once again full perfs. although heavy hingeing allows	£10.00
(f)	As above. Single copy with inverted watermark (M2aZ)	£2.25
627(a)	1d Scarlet, Official (MO2a). An elusive stamp, represented by two fine shade contrasts	£13.50
(b)	As above. Brilliant marginal block of 4, with punched red registration mark in selvedge, unhinged mint	£30.00
628(a)	1d Green, fine HM paper (M2b). Two fine shade contrasts, unusual in this stamp	£6.50
(b)	As above. Corner block of 6, plate 31, with R1/24 shifted transfer variety ..	£13.50
(c)	As above. Marginal block of 6, also plate 31, R3/17 retouch (MV2c(e) on M2b) — a scarce variety on this paper, and visible without the aid of a glass ..	£20.00
629(a)	1d Green, fine VM paper (M2c). Shades in this stamp are numerous — we have selected just two stamps for their widely varying contrasts	40p
(b)	As above. Marginal block of 10 with defective watermark	£10.00
(c)	As above. Unmounted mint copy with inverted watermark (M2cZ)	£17.50
(d)	As above. The same inverted wmk., but hinged mint	£10.00
(e)	As above. Two paper contrasts, one thick, the other thin (almost translucent). Brilliant blocks of 4	£6.50
(f)	As above. An imprint/plate block of 8 on the thin "translucent" paper	£12.50
(g)	As above. Counter coil pair (MC1b) with red rubber-stamped section number .	£1.75
(h)	As above. Complete set (nos. 1 — 19) of MC1b coil pairs with red section numbers. Cat. \$ 95	£27.50
(i)	As above. Another MC1b coil pair, but with purple section number	£1.75
(j)	As above. Counter coil pair, purple no., one stamp thick paper, the other thin paper, combined	£6.00
630	1d Green, fine VM paper, Official (MO2c). Two shades	50p
631(a)	1d Green, coarse VM paper (M2d). Two shades, brilliant contrasts	50p
(b)	As above. Two plate/imprint blocks of 8, nos. 37 and 77	£7.50

(c) As above. Ten imprint/plate blocks of 6, nos. 112, 115–123. One or two faults, but overall fine	£15.00
(d) As above. Two papers, one thin and the other thick	£2.50
(e) As above. Horizontal strip of 4 from a slot machine, with coil butt join	£6.00
(f) As above. Marginal block of 6 with double perms. in the bottom selvedge	£7.50
(g) As above. Block of 4 from plate 72, with R8/4 variety	£7.50
(h) As above. Corner block of 18, plate 77, with R3/6 retouch – MV2d(j). Scarce in positional block	£20.00
(i) As above. Top marginal strip of 6, plate 77, including shifted transfers for R1/12, 1/13, 1/14, 1/17	£7.50
(j) As above. Marginal block of 4, plate 78, R7/1 retouch	£7.50
(k) As above. Large marginal block of 36, including the imprint/plate (78) block, with R7/17 and 8/11 retouches – MV2d (k & m). A brilliant piece	£37.50
(l) As above. Marginal block of 9, plate 78, with R1/18 and 4/16 varieties	£10.00
(m) As above. Three blocks (12, 12 and 6 respectively), all from plate 115 showing R1/3, 1/4, 1/5, 1/21, 1/22, 1/23, 2/22, 2/23, 2/24 and 10/6 varieties	£15.00
(n) As above. Marginal block of 4, plate 117, R10/13 variety	£7.50
(o) As above. Marginal block of 4, plate 120, R1/12 shifted transfer	£7.50
(p) As above. Corner block of 12, including imprint/plate no. 121, with R10/3 and 10/6 shifted transfers	£10.00
(q) As above. Four marginal blocks (three blocks of 4 and a block of 6), from plate 122, including R1/1, 1/2, 2/17, 2/19, 1/21, 1/22, 1/23, 1/24 varieties ..	£15.00
(r) As above. Marginal block of 4, plate 124, with R6/1 weak right panel at bottom, and R7/1 weak right panel at top. No need for an eyeglass with this one!	£12.50

(To be continued)

RECENT ISSUES

1987 N.Z. Post Vesting Day (issued 1/4/87), two 40c stamps se-tenant, Mint se-tenant pair	55p
Plate block of 8 stamps	£2.50
Official Illustrated F.D.C. (Wanganui pmk.)	75p
1987 R.N.Z.A.F. (Military History, Air force). 40c (Avro 626), 70c (P40 Kittyhawk), 80c (Sunderland), 85c (A4 Skyhawk). Mint set of 4	£1.75
Complete set of 4 imprint blocks (one block each value)	£12.25
Official illustrated F.D.C. (Wanganui pmk.)	£1.95
Miniature sheet, including all 4 stamps and featuring the 1923 Wigram Aerodrome – Mint	£1.75