

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

King George V Recess (1). There are several recorded instances of sheets issued with a strike of the comb perforating head omitted. These occur in the 4d plate 20, 4d plate 44, 6d and 9d, and result in the rare varieties "vertical pair, partly imperforate". In every case, the N.Z. Handbook states that it was the **fifth** horizontal row which was affected, and there was no obvious reason to question this. It fitted in perfectly with my own pet theory that these varieties, like the other instances (in the 5d, 9d and 1/-) where the entire top four or five rows were imperforate, stemmed directly from the practice at that time of perforating sheets in two separate operations.

However, a heavy spanner has just been thrown into the works! I have in front of me a marginal block of 4 of the 6d with the lower pair of stamps imperf. at top, and the upper pair imperf. at sides and bottom, i.e. corresponding in all respects with the long-recognised variety. **BUT** (and it's a big but) this block is unquestionably from **horizontal rows six and seven**. The punctured perforation guide dot centrally in the side selvage proves that fact absolutely conclusively.

Moreover, I also have before me two pieces from the 4d plate 44 showing the same perf. variety, one a similar proving block to the 6d, and the other a vertical pair which I have also been able to plate to the same two rows, 6 and 7!

It would be stretching coincidence beyond the bounds of credulity to suggest that all three of these items are never-previously-recorded varieties. I think it is infinitely more probable that they are from the sheets mentioned in the Handbook, but that their positions in the sheets have been mistaken for more than half a century.

The "two-perf. connection" theory, incidentally, is not necessarily destroyed, nor even dented, by these surprising discoveries. All of them date from the period after January 1926, when the method of perforating sheets in two separate operations was altered from bottom six rows/top four rows to bottom five/top five. Thus after that date, row six was immediately adjacent to the changeover point, where human error was obviously most likely to occur.

King George V Recess (2). Whilst on the subject of "two-perfs.", have you ever seen or heard of two-perf. pairs occurring in **rows eight and nine**? We have, but there is a twist, of course. The 1½d on 'Pictorial' paper (K1d/e/f) was invariably perforated by the conventional two-perf. method,

i.e. the bottom six rows with a 14 x 14½ head, and the top four rows with a 14 x 13½ head, giving the usual two-perf. pairs from rows 4 and 5. But we are offering elsewhere in this Bulletin a complete double vertical strip of 20 from a sheet which had had rows 5 to 8 removed (presumably due to damage), and replaced by the top four rows from another sheet officially patched in. So the sheet as issued had the top eight rows perf. 14 x 13½, and the bottom two rows 14 x 14½.

Early N.Z. Letters. Continuing our series of transcriptions commenced last month, we now come to a long and totally fascinating correspondence from a William Nihill to his family. Nihill was the son of an English minister, and went to New Zealand with Bishop Selwyn in 1841 as an ecclesiastical trainee. The correspondence covers a period of 13 years, and I believe some if not all of the original letters were at one time in the collection of the late Dr. Riddell. It will take many months to reproduce in these columns, and I leave the story to unfold gradually.

Letter no.1.

Dec. 25th 1841

On board the Tomatin.

My dearest Mama,

I little thought when Mr. Miller said that I should spend my Christmas at home, that I should be in England, and still less that I should be in Plymouth Sound. The wind is coming more round to the 'N' and it is rather cold, though a beautiful day, but I am afraid there is little chance of our going yet. I have just been playing with the young Bishop, who is now crowing away on the table, and has taken a strange fancy to sit upon my desk. Tell Susan Jones next time you see her that we are sure to have a prosperous voyage, as there is a chance cat on board, a beautiful creature, which the Captain picked up in Mile End Road.

We are all on board now, except Mrs Selwyn, Mrs Martin, Mr and Mrs Dudley, Messrs Watson, Evans, Butt and Fisher. They will all come off as soon as the wind is fair and then we shall start. I put a stroke under then, because the Tomatin declares "she dont care for nobody, and nobody cares for her". I suppose they would wait a couple of hours for Mrs S. and Mrs M., but they seem determined to be off as soon as the wind changes. Our cabin is in pretty good order. The post is going. Goodbye. I have not been at all sick yet.

Your very affectionate son

William.

P.S. I find I need not be in such a hurry about my letter. There is no post tomorrow, as I need not send this yet. We have just had service in the cabin. There was no sermon. You can always send letters as long as the ship is here. I got your dear letter last night. If you only direct, Ship Tomatin, Plymouth Sound it will find me. We breakfast at eight, dine at 3, drink tea at 7, go to bed when we like only the lights must be all out at 10. If Fisher is sick at first, and I keep well a little longer, I shant go below more than I can help, for it is sure to set you off to see another person ill. Poor Evans is very sick, at least he is not on board now, but he was last time he was here, though there was very little motion. I got him one or two things and he was very much obliged to me. Mr Cotton has made a wage with the Capt. that he wont be sick. If he is always so cheerful and agreeable as he is now, he will be a most desirable companion. The ship is rolling very much now such a slow heavy labouring, ground swell. Some of us seem to find it rather difficult to stand. Now you all will enjoy

yourselves today at dinner. Dont be anxious about me, I am very happy. But what nonsense I am talking, I mean, Dont have been anxious about me for this may not reach you till we sail. The wind may possibly continue this way for a week longer. I will write please God, not D.V. before we sail

Your very affectionate son

William Nihill

Letter no. 2.

Dec. 26th 1841

*The ship sails directly.
My own darling Mama,*

Mr Cotton has just upturned the inkstand over my desk, but it is only some of the papers that is spoilt. At last the fair wind is come. We are going to have church at 10½ and then we are going to sail. It is a great nonsense them going ashore and not coming till the ship is under way, for my things are all in comparative order, but Fishers are still in a great mess, and I cannot really arrange them without him. He is always very fond of putting things off on me, and perhaps, dear Papa will say that that is what my indolent character wants, and perhaps it does make me more active than I should be otherwise, having to take case of him. I wish he would let me take care of things, and arrange them for him, for he only makes things worse. I should be content, I think to do his work, if he would only not disarrange it again, and meddle with my good management. However perhaps I am making things worse than they really are, but I must say for him that he is a very good fellow and if he would only understand that he has no method arrangement or tact about him I should like him very much, as indeed I do, only sometimes I feel a little angry with him. But I feel we shall get on very well. I like all our party very much. There is such a difference of characters. I do so like Mr Cotton; and Mr Reay, Mr Cole and two or three of the Coy party are very agreeable. Our party consists of the Bishop and Mrs Selwyn and 5 servants, Mrs Martin and servants, Mr Whitehead, clergyman. Mr Dudley and wife and boy and girl, Mr Reay ditti, Mr Cole, Mr Watson, Mr Butt, the agreeable surgeon, and last but not least the inimitable Mr Cotton. Mr Hambridge schoolmaster and wife, Mr Lowther. Mr Fisher, Mr Evans. Not of our party Mr Farmer and Mr James. I think that is all, at least I cannot think of any more now. The New Zealand boy RUPI is a very good fellow, but very ferocious looking. He is a great friend of mine, and I ask him New Zealand words and I tell him the English for them. Mr Reay and myself had some reading with Rupi last night. Mr Cole, Mr Watson and Mr Reay I like very much. I have not seen anything of the others yet. I like Mr Coyn, the rough looking mate very well. The two cabin passengers, Mr Farmer and Mr James are anything but gentlemanly but very good sort of people in their way. They came down the whole way. I had a long talk with the Cap yesterday and I always sit near him at dinner when I can. The mate was a midshipman with the E.I.C. service and the Bishop talks a great deal to him at dinner. I will write to you by the first opportunity. I have no time to write to my dear dear Liz now, but when we are all settled I shall write a great deal.

Young Master Selwyn is squawking now most ferociously. He is in general very good and has not suffered in the least from sea sickness as yet. He seems much better than when I saw him at Richmond. The ship will sail as soon as service is over. Goodbye my own dear Papa and Mamma. I am very happy and comfortable, so dont be unhappy or cry about me, for I am in a good cause. Tell dearest Liz that I bought

the book of Psalms in Plymouth, that I mark she says I read it regularly. I have a little snug hole for it close to my bed. My bunk is the most comfortable bed I ever slept in, it is not hard, or high, or narrow, or anything, so my darling Mamma you must not be uneasy about me. I will write. I wont forget my journal. Bid good bye for me to Martha, Hanna and Leymor. Remember me most kindly to all my friends. Goodbye. Goodbye. Farewell. Kiss my own dear Marge and Liz for me.

Ever your most affectionate son

William Nihil.

Goodbye, my very precious Mamma. Goodbye my very valued Papa. Tell Liz she is a little foolish Miss to think I am so kind to her and really foolish to think that I shall forget her.

William Nihil

K.G. V PLATE BLOCKS

A listing of quite exceptional quality. Unless otherwise stated, all items offered are blocks of 4 with full corner selvedge.

701	1½d Cowan Paper (K1a). Plate no 14. Single light hinge in selvedge. Very fine	£42.50
702(a)	2d Violet (K2a). Plate no. 15. Side selvedge trimmed, but still over ½" wide. Fine unhinged	£52.50
(b)	As above. Plate no. 16. Superb unhinged	£67.50
703	2½d Deep Blue (K3a). Plate no. 17. Lightly hinged in selvedge only. Superb .	£65.00
704	3d Chocolate(K4a). Plate no. 18. Very light hinge one stamp. Superb	£70.00
705	4d Violet (K5d). Plate no. 20. Superb unhinged	£67.50
706	4d Deep Purple (K5g). Plate no. 44. Tiny selvedge stain, otherwise superb. Unhinged	£42.50
707	4½d Deep Green (K6a). Plate no. 21. Selvedge surface thin and slight staining, but an attractive block at only	£37.50
708(a)	5d Blue, Perf. 14 x 13¼ (K7a). Plate no. 43, in the light blue shade. Superb unhinged	£62.50
(b)	As above. Similarly superb plate block, but in steel blue	£85.00
709	6d Carmine (K8a). Plate no. 23. Superb unhinged	£100.00
710	7½d Deep Red-Brown (K9a). Plate no. 24. Superb unhinged	£80.00
711	8d Indigo-Blue (K10a). Plate no. 39. Mint unhinged, but some creasing (mainly high in top selvedge) allows	£42.50

712(a)	8d Red-Brown (K10d). Plate no. 39, in the red-chocolate shade. Superb unhinged	£100.00
(b)	As above. Similar plate block, but in red-brown. Again brilliant unhinged ..	£120.00
713	9d Sage-Green (K11a). Plate no. 25. Plate block (no side selvage) in a delightful pale bright shade. Superb unhinged	£80.00
714	1/- Vermilion, Perf. 14 x 13½ (K12a). Plate no. 27. Block in orange-vermilion, superb unhinged	£145.00
715(a)	1/- Vermilion, Perf. 14 x 14½ (K12b). Plate no. 41, in orange-vermilion (no side selvage). One light hinge in selvage, stamps superb unmounted ...	£67.50
(b)	As above. Block similar in all respects, but plate no. 42 and in a full vermilion shade. Very rare (Cat. \$ 1000)	£200.00
(c)	As above. Plate no. 42. Superb full corner selvage block in salmon . Another rarity. Mint unhinged	£185.00

MISCELLANY

716(a)	1906 Hausburg Reprint. Complete sheet (240) of the 2d Full-Face Queen from the final state of Plate 2, with all the retouches. Printed in black on thin card. Condition exceptionally fine	£87.50
(b)	As above, but block of 4	£2.50
717	First Sidefaces. 2/- (centred left, large part o.g.) and 5/- (well centred, no gum) both over printed SPECIMEN diagonally in violet. The pair	£95.00
718(a)	First Pictorial 1/- Reduced Design. Two very fine mint copies, perf. 14 x 15, in the listed shades of orange-red and orange-brown (rare). Magnificent contrasts! (S.G. 446/7)	£287.50
(b)	As above. The rare orange-brown shade, unhinged mint . Brilliant	£275.00
719(a)	5/- Mt. Cook. Marginal copy, perf. 11 wmk. sideways (E21c) with huge left selvage (about 1½ inches wide). Stamp superb unhinged mint. A showpiece .	£145.00
(b)	As above. Bottom selvage copy showing the rare mixed perfs. variety (E21h). Stated to be ex-King Carol of Rumania collection. Although pencil annotation in the selvage indicates the wmk. is sideways, it is in fact upright (as has been the case in everyone of the half dozen or so examples known to us.) Previously hinged, but fine and fresh. Cat. \$ 3300 (S.G. £1100)	£800.00
(c)	As above. Marginal block of 4, wmk. sideways, overprinted OFFICIAL (EO21e). Brilliant mint unhinged	£775.00
720	1d Universal. A fabulous mint block of 35 (5 x 7) from Dot Plate 1 — early, unworn print in a deep rich shade. The block comprises Rows 1 — 7, Nos. 5 — 9, and thus includes no less than nine of the ten examples of prominent retouching to the top left rosette, as well as numerous retouches to the frames of the value tablets. (Oddly, however, there is no evidence of the listed R1/8	

re-entry). Large Dot Plates blocks are rare — this one is possibly unique.
Some creasing, evident only on the back, facial appearance superb £225.00

721 King Edward VII Die Proof. Progress proof from the master die in black on thin card. Top labels, crown and portrait in oval complete, frame of value tablet lightly outlined, no other detail engraved. Cut close to design size, but very attractive, and rare £45.00

722(a) King Edward VII ½d. Booklet pane of 6, all selvages complete, from the 1912 issue with continuous horizontal selvedge bar (W3bX). Minor selvedge tone spot barely evident on face side, otherwise very fine and fresh £77.50

(b) As above. Very similar pane, but no binding selvedge £47.50

723 K.G.V 1½d Recess. Double vertical strip of 20 on 'Pictorial' paper, from officially patched sheet, with top eight rows perf. 14 x 13¼, bottom two rows 14 x 14¼ (as described in this month's notes). A two-perf. piece with a big difference! £62.50

724 K.G.V 4d Plate 20. Imperf. plate proof pair, printed in black, including the R4/10 re-entry. Plate varieties on proofs are, by their nature, brilliantly clear, and thus especially desirable £32.50

725 1935 2/- Captain Cook. Die proof printed in deep green on large piece (70mm x 60mm). Fine £275.00

OFFER OF THE MONTH

726 Q.E. Booklet Panes. Complete set of 8 different panes of six stamps, in the redrawn designs (with large figures of value), on both the original and thick white papers, as listed under W7b — d in the C.P. Catalogue.
Cat. \$ 135.50. The set, superb unhinged mint £27.50

727 Q.E. 3d Official. Unhinged mint copy with variety Watermark Inverted (NO24bZ). A scarce one now! £10.00

728 1960 Pictorial 1/3d. Unhinged mint copy with a massive shift (a full 2mm) of the brown colour to the right. Result — an extra albino trout.
Spectacular variety £27.50

729 1913 Auckland Exhibition. A very unusual offer — the ½d and 1d values in mint blocks of 8. Light gum tones, but facially lovely. S.G. cat. £280 as singles. The two blocks £97.50

730 1920 Victory. The complete set of 8 as listed by S.G., including the very scarce ½d pale yellow-green, and both shades of the 1d. Brilliant unhinged mint throughout, and rare in this condition £92.50

731(a) 1925 Dunedin Exhibition 4d. Marginal copy with the R10/1 POSTAGE variety. Superfine mint £85.00

(b) As above. The same variety, but in a used copy with corner selvedge and central Exhibition c.d.s. Scarce thus. Very fine £125.00

KING GEORGE VI, Continued

As usual, all offers are mint, and where necessary a full description will be included.

732	1d Coarse VM paper, Official (MO2d). Two fine shades.....	50p
733(a)	1d Coarse HM paper (M2e). Unmounted single	£4.00
(b)	As above. Two superb shades, fine mint	£8.00
(c)	As above. Unmounted mint block of 4	£15.00
(d)	As above. Marginal block of 4, with R9/17 variety — MV2d(p) on M2e paper .	£32.50
734	1d Coarse HM paper, Official (MO2e). One of the scarcest of all K.G.VI stamps. Superb marginal block of 4, unhinged	£65.00
735(a)	1d on ½d Green (M3a). Two fine green contrasts	50p
(b)	As above. Two blocks of 4 including overprint varieties forme 4 R6/23 and 6/24, and forme 5 R1/24 — as listed in Volume 2 of the Handbooks. Seldom available	£15.00
736(a)	1½d Chocolate (M4a). The two Catalogued shades, brilliant contrasts, and unhinged mint!	£15.00
(b)	As above. For the discerning collector — a marginal block of 4, unhinged, superb (Cat. \$ 80) offered at	£25.00
(c)	As above. Two plate blocks of 4, both no. 21, in right and left selvages ...	£60.00
(d)	As above. Marginal block, unmounted, with punched brown registration mark in selvedge	£30.00
(e)	As above. Inverted watermark variety (M4aY), unhinged single with full perfs. .	£10.00
(f)	As above. Booklet pane of 6, inverted wmk. (W6cY) and with full perfs. (Cat. \$ 95)	£30.00
(g)	As above. A matching booklet pane, but with upright wmk. (W6cZ), again with full perfs. Unhinged	£27.50
737(a)	1½d Chocolate, Official (MO4a). Single, unmounted	£30.00
(b)	As above. A mounted mint copy	£22.50
(c)	As above. Two superb shades, both unhinged	£70.00
(d)	As above. To the first order only, a brilliant marginal block of 4, perfect in all respects	£125.00
(e)	As above. Another marginal block of 4, also unmounted and perfect, with the punched brown registration mark in selvedge	£150.00
738(a)	1½d Rose-Red, Fine HM paper (M4b). Two shades	75p

(b) As above. Two marginal blocks of 4, plate no. 21 in both right and left selvage	£4.00
(c) As above. Marginal block of 4, plate no. 20 in right selvage	£2.00
(d) As above. Imprint block of 8, light creasing but brilliant appearance	£3.00
(e) As above. Marginal block of 6 with plate 20 R8/18 retouch — MV4b(a)	£7.50
(f) As above. Marginal block of 15 with plate 20 R5/5 variety (Kings left ear is notably paler than normal)	£10.00
(g) As above. Marginal block of 12 with plate 21 R4/10 retouch — MV4b(b) ...	£7.50
(h) As above. Marginal block of 10, with plate no. 21, R5/1 and 8/1 re-entries, and punched red selvage registration mark	£10.00
739(a) 1½d Rose-Red, Coarse VM paper (M4c). Two shades	15p
(b) As above. Two marginal blocks of 8, with plate nos. 20 and 21 in their new positions beneath the imprint in the bottom selvage	£15.00
(c) As above. Imprint/plate blocks of 4, nos. 129, 130, 131, 136, 137	£10.00
(d) As above. Positional block of 24 with plate 20 R8/18 retouch — MV4c(a) — scarce thus	£17.50
(e) As above. Marginal block of 12, plate 21 R4/10 retouch — MV4c(b)	£7.50
(f) As above. Marginal block of 10 — matching lot 738(h) — R5/1 and 8/1 re-entries, and still showing signs of the removed plate number (21)	£12.50
(g) As above. Imprint/plate 129 block of 8, with R9/22 retouch — MV4c(c) ..	£6.00
(h) As above. Marginal block of 16, plate 129, with R1/14, 1/15, 1/19, 1/20, 2/14 shifted transfers	£10.00
(i) As above. Two marginal blocks of 4, plate 132, R9/11 and 9/18 retouches, listed in Volume 4	£12.50
740(a) 1½d Rose-red, Official (MO4c). An elusive, but still inexpensive stamp. Mint unmounted	£1.70
(b) As above. Marginal block of 4, unhinged	£6.75
(c) As above. Two fine shade contrasts	£4.00

(To be continued)

741 1d Universal Royle Plates. A magnificent complete set of all the perforation variations — 14, 11, 14 x 11, 11 x 14, mixed and comb perf. 14 x 14½ (G10a — f) — all in superb mint blocks of four. The rare set of six mint blocks — an album page in a million! Cat. \$ 3720 (S.G. £1934) as singles	£875.00
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