

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, £1.50 over £100, Overseas at cost)



VOLUME XXIV

NUMBER 3

OCTOBER 1986



Lot no. 1020

N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

Hawkes Bay Earthquake, 3rd February 1931. This natural catastrophe is well-known, from a philatelic point of view, because of the numbers of emergency flights which were made to keep the mails moving, at a time when the normal overland routes were out of commission. The worst of the tremors were centred around the towns of Napier and Hastings, and the whole area became what would now be termed a disaster zone. We have recently come across an interesting and very poignant reminder of the earthquake. In the immediate aftermath, a series of daily 'News Bulletins' were published in Napier, and two original copies of these have come into our hands. Both are single-sheet publications, and both they and their content convey a graphic idea of the conditions at the time. One is dated Feb. 5th 1931, and although unnumbered, it is obviously the first of the series. The other is dated Feb. 9th, and is numbered 5. A good deal of the column space is given over to lists of casualties, but the many other items include a notice from "The Working Man's Butcher" offering "Free Meat Cooked and Ready to All People in Want"; an Order from the Headquarters Committee that "Motorists must give way to the fire engine when proceeding to a fire"; other instructions that "Sinks and W.C.'s must not be used and "Wash in sea for present". Altogether a fascinating insight into an unfortunate occurrence of the past.

Maori Council Franks. Thanks to Dr. K.J. McNaught, my tally of these is now extended to seventeen. Ken has sent me photostats of the following examples (all in his collection) which are new to me: Matatua (the third of this district on my list), Te Arawa and Hokianga (the second of each of these I've seen), and Horouta. All are on cut-out except the last, which is on the second recorded front of an "On Maori Council Business Only" envelope (of the type without the L-shaped frame enclosing the space for the frank). Fortunately the printing code on this one is complete and reads, "2,000/1/1902 - 291B", indicating a printing of 2,000 of these envelopes in January 1902. To complete the information on these little known envelopes, can anyone produce a copy of the type with the L-shaped frame? I would guess that the full printing code on this would be "2,000/1/1902 - 291A", but it would be much more satisfying to have this verified. And incidentally, I wonder why there were two different types of envelope (as well as a printed postcard) for such a limited need as that of the Maori Councils? Any ideas?

Footnote: Dr. McNaught's collection also includes a copy of the Tongariro District seal, but this is apparently unsigned, and thus does not qualify as a frank, so I have excluded it from my inventory.

The Mystery of the 1d Dominion Blocks

by Frank Scrivener

Some time ago, knowing my interest in the 1d Dominion stamp, Colin Hamilton sent me three upright blocks of 6 and eleven blocks of 4 with all but two of the stamps showing the Plate 13 roller flaw, thus assuming that the blocks came from Plate 13. Most of the blocks that are found are from Plate 12, Plate 13 blocks being quite scarce so I was naturally delighted to receive these. However when I came to examine these blocks carefully to my surprise I was unable to plate ANY of them. They had only a few flaws, and these were not familiar to me as Plate 13 ones. An examination of my Plate 13 chart showing the plating I had done so far showed it was impossible to fit in a single block of 6, let alone three. This puzzled me for some time until suddenly the "penny dropped" and I realised that all the blocks must be from an electrotype booklet plate printing with the margins removed!! Some of the mystery was cleared up when I recently acquired a complete uncut booklet sheet from the first electrotype booklet plate (locally made) in the second partially barred state. I was indeed able to plate all the 'mystery' blocks as follows: The 11 blocks of 4 were from Panes 1,5,9,12,13,15,18,20,21,22 and 24, but curiously all were from the bottom part of the pane, being stamps nos. 3,4,5 and 6 in each case. One of the blocks of 6 was a complete pane 17, the other two contained the bottom four stamps of one pane and the top two stamps of the pane immediately below (Pane 11 nos. 3,4,5 and 6 above Pane 19 nos. 1 and 2 and Pane 16 nos. 3,4,5 and 6 above Pane 24 nos. 1 and 2).

I am now of the opinion that the blocks came from the same uncut booklet sheet of the first printing before the bars were added, (with no bars the removal of the margins would seem more likely). Being an early printing is confirmed by the fact that the printing of the blocks is good and not at all like the later very blurred printings. Probably the sheet was damaged and this was the reason for the break up of the sheet.

THE 'WATERLOW' MINIATURE SHEETS OF 1898 PICTORIALS.

These delightful items were produced by the printers as samples of their work. All values of the original 1898 'London' set exist, printed in colours differing from the issued stamps, in miniature sheets of 9 and perforated 12½. Each stamp is punched with a 2mm hole, and overprinted in one of two types: (a) WATERLOW & SONS, LD in blue or red (applied by recess-printing); (b) WATERLOW & SONS LTD/SPECIMEN in two lines, in black (applied by typography). The usual paper is thinnish unwatermarked, but those sheets which were printed in a second colour (½d green, 1d green, 2½d brown, 3d prussian blue, 4d orange, 5d bright purple-violet, 8d orange-vermilion, 1/- indigo) are on a distinctive very thick unwatermarked paper, as is the 5/- sheet with overprint type(b). All of the sample sheets are scarce, but those on the thick paper are especially so. The following listing is from the Michael Burberry collection, and represents every sheet recorded in Vol. 6 of the N.Z. Handbook, as well as several unrecorded variations.

1001(a) ½d Brown.	Overprint Type (b)	£125.00
(b) As above.	Overprint Type (a) in blue	£125.00
1002 ½d Green.	Overprint Type (b). Very scarce	£150.00
1003(a) 1d Black/Blue-Green.	Overprint Type (b)	£125.00
(b) As above.	Overprint Type (a) in blue. Minor imperfections	£95.00
1004(a) 2d Indigo.	Overprint Type (b)	£125.00
(b) As above.	Overprint Type (a) in red	£125.00
(c) As above.	Variety sheet with third horizontal row of perforations omitted, thus including three imperf. between vertical pairs. Unrecorded	£275.00
1005 2d Green.	Overprint Type (b). Very scarce	£160.00
1006(a) 2½d Grey.	On pink-toned paper. Overprint Type (a) in blue	£150.00
(b) As above.	Variety sheet with second vertical row of perforations omitted, thus including three imperf. between horizontal pairs. Unrecorded	£275.00
1007 2½d Brown.	Overprint Type (b). Very scarce	£175.00
1008(a) 3d Brownish-Purple.	Overprint Type (b)	£150.00
(b) As above.	Overprint Type (a) in blue. Diagonal corner crease	£120.00
1009 3d Prussian Blue.	Overprint Type (b). Very scarce	£175.00

1010(a) 4d Green; Overprint Type (b)	£150.00
(b) As above. Overprint Type (a) in blue	£150.00
1011 4d Orange. Overprint Type (b). Very scarce	£175.00
1012(a) 5d Blue-Green. Overprint Type (b)	£150.00
(b) As above. Overprint Type (a) in blue	£150.00
1013 5d Bright Purple-Violet. Overprint Type (b). Very scarce	£185.00
1014(a) 6d Deep Rose-Carmine. Overprint Type (b)	£150.00
(b) As above. Overprint Type (a) in blue	£150.00
1015(a) 8d Purple-Brown. Overprint Type (b)	£150.00
(b) As above. Overprint Type (a) in blue	£150.00
1016 8d Orange-Vermilion. Overprint Type (b). Very scarce	£185.00
1017(a) 9d Purple-Brown. On buff-toned paper. Overprint Type (a) in blue	£150.00
(b) As above. Variety sheet with first vertical row of perforations omitted, thus including three stamps imperf. at left, with selvage	£275.00
1018(a) 1/- Slate-Purple. Overprint Type (b)	£150.00
(b) As above. Overprint Type (a) in blue	£150.00
1019 1/- Indigo. Overprint Type (b). Sheets printed in indigo are not recorded, although we know of at least one other. Like this one, it too has enormously wide selvages on all four sides, and high in the top selvage appears the inscription "TOP/NEW ZEALAND/1/-" in reverse, crudely scratched by hand into the printing surface of the plate. Even higher, and in the extreme top left corner, the monogram 'W&S' (Waterlow & Sons), also in reverse, appears	£425.00
1020 2/- Orange-Vermilion. Overprint Type (a) in blue (illustrated)	£225.00
1021(a) 5/- Black. Overprint Type (b). Rare	£300.00
(b) As above. Overprint Type (a) in blue	£275.00
(c) As above. Variety sheet with third vertical row of perforations omitted, thus including three imperf. between horizontal pairs. Unrecorded	£325.00

QUEEN ELIZABETH II

The concluding part of this extremely popular listing — as usual, all offers are mint unless otherwise stated.

1022(a) 2d on 1½d Provisional (N40). Two shades, both large dot (N40aZ)	30p
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(b) As above. Imprint/plate block of 6 (plate no. 9)	£1.00
(c) As above. Another imprint/plate no. 9 block, of 4 stamps, with large part of an extra strike of the perforating head in the bottom selvage	£3.00
(d) As above. Variety Double Surcharge One Albino (N40aX)	£7.00
(e) As above. Four lovely shades, all small dot (N40aY)	£1.00
(f) As above. All four imprint/plate blocks (nos. 7, 8, 9 and 10), all with small dot .	£5.50
(g) As above. Three different papers, thin, normal and thick	£5.00
1023 2d on 1½d Error (N41a, S.G. 763b). Superb unmounted mint example (Cat. \$ 250) offered at, to Bulletin subscribers only	£75.00
1024(a) 2½d on 3d Provisional, Narrow Setting (N42a). Two shades	40p
(b) As above. Two imprint/plate blocks of 6, nos. 19 and 20	£4.50
1025(a) 2½d on 3d Provisional, Wide Setting (N42b). Two shades	75p
(b) As above. Two imprint/plate blocks of 6, nos. 17 and 18	£8.00
1026(a) N42a/N42b Se-tenant. Vertical se-tenant pair, top stamp narrow setting, bottom stamp wide setting (N42aZ). Cat. \$ 40	£12.50
(b) As above. Horizontal se-tenant pair (N42aY)	£12.50
1027(a) 7d Arms Type (N43a). Two pink shades	£1.00
(b) As above. Two top right corner blocks of 4, with different types of carmine sheet serial numbers	£6.00
(c) As above. Top corner block of 16 (with sheet serial no.), showing how the two black bars — added to prevent the misuse of the unprinted watermarked paper — are not continuous right across the top selvage. Most interesting	£10.00
1028(a) 1d Official. Two orange shades, on the original coarse paper (NO21a)	£1.00
(b) As above. Imprint/plate block of 6, also original paper	£6.75
(c) As above. Imprint/plate block of 6, thick white paper (NO21b)	£12.50
1029(a) 1½d Official (NO22a). Two lake-brown shades	£2.50
(b) As above. Imprint/plate block of 6	£9.00
(c) As above. Superb used block of 4 with c.d.s. cancel, very scarce thus	£10.00
1030(a) 2d Official. Two green shades, on original coarse paper (NO23a)	£1.25
(b) As above. Imprint/plate block of 4, also on coarse paper	£5.00

(c) As above. Two green shades, thick white paper (NO23b)	£1.35
1031(a) 3d Official. Both imprint/plate blocks of 6, coarse paper (NO24a)	£9.00
(b) As above. Imprint/plate block of 4, thick white paper (NO24b)	£6.50
1032(a) 4d Official. Two blue shades, coarse paper (NO25a)	£1.35
(b) As above. Imprint/plate block of 6, also coarse paper	£11.00
(c) As above. Two blue shades, thick white paper (NO25b)	£3.00
(d) As above. Imprint/plate block of 4, also thicker paper	£11.50
1033 9d Official (NO26a). Imprint/plate block of 6	£12.50
1034(a) 1/- Official. Two purple shades, original coarse paper (NO27a)	£3.00
(b) As above. Imprint/plate block of 6, also original paper	£9.00
(c) As above. Imprint/plate block of 6, thick white paper (NO27b)	£18.50
1035(a) 6d on 1½d Provisional Official (NO28a). Two lake-brown shades	£3.00
(b) As above. Imprint/plate block of 6	£18.50
1036(a) 2½d on 2d Provisional Official (NO29a). Two green shades	£3.00
(b) As above. Imprint/plate block of 6	£18.50
1037 2½d Official (NO35a). Imprint/plate block of 6	£6.50
1038(a) 3/- Official (NO39a). Unmounted mint single	£20.00
(b) As above. Mounted mint single	£10.00
(c) As above. Imprint/plate block of 6 (Cat. \$ 420)	£100.00
(d) As above. Used, c.d.s. cancel, superb and very scarce	£42.50

1986 FRAMA COVERS

1039 Set of 23 first day covers, each bearing a 25c Frama Label, posted at each of the 23 offices throughout New Zealand where a Frama machine was sited (post paid)	£9.00
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1986 HEALTH CAMP POSTMARKS

1040 Set of 7 Health first day covers, each bearing a set of the 1986 Health stamps, posted at the seven Health Camps with P.O. facilities. (Worthy of note is that the name of the Rotorua Camp has been changed to The Princess of Wales Health Camp — apparently The Princess agreed to this change during the recent royal visit). Post paid	£8.25
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