

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

Perkins, Bacon Plate Numbers, 1907–1927. Why are the plates used to print the 1d Dominion sheet stamps commonly referred to as plates 12 and 13? That's one of the queries that comes up most frequently in our postbag, and it is a quite understandable one, for two main reasons: Firstly, there was no indication at all of these numbers on issued sheets, and secondly there were only two plates used for 1d Dominion sheet stamps – even if one includes the booklet plates, the total rises only to five. So why the numbers 12 and 13?

The answer lies with the makers of the plates, Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., and their system of identification. During the period 1907–27, that firm supplied a total of 45 plates for the printing of New Zealand stamps, of which 30 were for recess-printing, and the remaining 15 were for surface-printing. The plates were allocated numbers from 1 to 45 serially in the order in which they were manufactured, but for some reason which has never to my knowledge been explained, these numbers appeared on issued sheets (always in the selvage above the first stamp in the sheet) **only from the 30 recess plates.** No sheets printed from any of the 15 surface-printing plates ever bore a plate number. A further complication arose in the actual sequence of manufacture, for the (unnumbered) surface printing plates were interspersed with the (numbered) recess plates. Thus, in addition to the surface prints having "anonymous" numbers, the numbering of the recess-prints forms a broken sequence.

Since the two 1d Dominion plates were the 12th and 13th to be made in the Perkins, Bacon series, it follows that these were the numbers under which they were recorded.

For those interested, the following is a complete checklist of the 45 plates in the series. Those numbers preceded by an asterisk did not appear on the issued sheets.

Plate Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4	1907–08 ½d Mt. Cook
5, 6	1907–08 6d Kiwi (reduced design)
7	1907–08 3d Huia (reduced design)
8	1907–08 1/- Keas/Kaka (reduced design)
*9	1908 1d Universal (Surface Print)
*10, *11	½d Edward (sheet stamps)
*12, *13	1d Dominion (sheet stamps)
14	K.G.V 1½d recess
15, 16	K.G.V 2d recess

17	K.G.V 2½d
18, 19	K.G.V 3d recess
20	K.G.V 4d
21	K.G.V 4½d
22, 23	K.G.V 6d
24	K.G.V 7½d
25	K.G.V 9d
26, 27	K.G.V 1/-
*28, *29	K.G.V ½d (sheet stamps)
*30	K.G.V 1½d surface print (London plate)
*31	K.G.V 2d surface print
*32	K.G.V 3d surface print
*33	K.G.V ½d (booklet stamps)
*34	1d Dominion (booklet stamps)
*35	K.G.V 1½d surface print (London plate)
*36	K.G.V 2d surface print
37, 38	K.G.V 6d
39, 40	K.G.V 8d
41, 42	K.G.V 1/-
43	K.G.V 5d
44	K.G.V 4d
*45	K.G.V 1d Field Marshal (booklet stamps)

Footnote: The K.G.V 8d plate numbered 40 was supplied, but no stamps were printed from this plate. There is evidence (from proof material) that another 8d plate was made – this was almost certainly the first of the three, but it proved unsatisfactory due to incorrect spacing of the impressions. It was not allocated a number.

MISCELLANY

401(a)	First Sidefaces. Simplified set of 8 (1d – 5/-, one each value), unused. Average to better than average condition – but at a much lower than average price!	£185.00
(b)	As above. Similar set of 8, but good to very fine used	£225.00
402	5/- First Sideface (C8a). Fair mint copy – excellent spacefiller	£22.50
403	1900 ½d and 2d Sideface. Matching top right corner blocks of 6 of the provisional issue with double-lined wmk. sideways (D1h, D3p). Unhinged mint and astonishingly fresh. Cat. C.P. \$ 126, S.G. £69 as singles	£40.00
404(a)	5d Sideface. Imperf. colour trial printed in bistre on thick paper	£15.00
(b)	As above. Similar item, but printed in deep blue	£15.00
(c)	As above. Similar item, but printed in carmine	£15.00
(d)	As above. Similar item, but printed in mauve	£15.00
405	½d Mt. Cook/1d Universal. Exceptionally fine mint copies on Basted Mills paper, perf. 11 (F2a, G3a). ½d is unhinged, 1d very lightly hinged, and both well-centred for these. Very scarce. The pair (Cat. \$ 300)	£100.00

- 406(a) K.E.VII Simplified Set.** Ten mint stamps, ½d – 1/-, incl. 1d Dominion and both 4ds. Previously hinged, but dazzlingly fresh colours and appearance. Minimum Cat. \$ 340 £80.00
- (b) As above.** Companion set of 6 (½d, 1d, 3d, 6d, 8d, 1/-) overprinted **Official**. Same condition and appearance. Cat. \$ 210 £52.50
- 407 K.E.VII 3d.** Brilliant mint block of 4 perf. 14 x 13½ (H3c). Beautifully centred, with barely perceptible previous hinge. A rare block £175.00
- 408(a) K.E.VII 8d 'Pictorial' Paper** (H7e). Never an easy stamp. Our offering is perfectly centred and unhinged mint. A beauty! £21.00
- (b) As above.** but lightly hinged copy £12.50
- (c) As above.** Superb mint block of 4, **upper pair being totally without watermark**. Again perfectly centred, pristine fresh – one stamp only very lightly hinged. The rare block, comprising two pairs of H7e(Z) £165.00
- 409 1d Dominion.** Mint copy on De La Rue paper, with the 'Q' flaw, and overprinted SPECIMEN in black. Most unusual! £15.00
- 410 1d Dominion Booklet Pane.** Beautiful complete pane with 'Kodak' ads. (and on Cowan reversed wmk. paper, as 'Kodaks' invariably are). Tiny gum-thin on binding selvedge from previous hinge, otherwise absolutely pristine mint. The pane (W4eY) £72.50
- 411 K.G.V. Surfaced-Printed ½d – 3d.** A long mint set of 30 stamps, representing every C.P. Catalogue number from K13a – K19d inclusive. Many scarce stamps here – total Cat. well over \$ 500. The set, finest mint and all fully identified, a once-only opportunity at £100.00
- 412 K.G.V. ½d.** Die proof in grey-black on glazed white card. Large margins (10mm) on all sides. Fine £95.00
- 413 3/- Mt. Egmont.** A marvellously fine quality block of 4 of the rare experimental issue with wmk. inverted—and—reversed (L14c). Perfect in all respects – well-centred, fresh, clean and mint unhinged. Cat. \$ 3400 £1000.00
- (Note: If unsold as a block, singles from the above can be supplied at £275 each)
- 414 1920 Victory 2d on ½d Provisional.** Set of two used copies with the listed surcharge varieties "a" for "d" at right and "Broken C" (the latter also has "a" for "d" in surcharge at left). The two used (S12a(Y) and (X)), seldom offered £11.50
- 415(a) Health (T1a).** Brilliant unhinged mint block of 4 £57.50
- (b) As above.** Single copy, fine lightly hinged £8.00
- 416(a) 1931 Health.** The 'Smiling Boy' pair (T3a/b), hinged but fine fresh mint £85.00

- (b) **As above.** Used copy of the 2d + 1d Blue Boy, with neat c.d.s. cancel. Minor defect (not affecting appearance), hence only £12.50
- 417 **1932 Health (T4a).** Corner block of 4, lightly hinged in selvedge only stamps brilliant unhinged £82.50
- 418 **1946 Health.** Set of two, each with the notable **Blurred Centre** variety (T18aW, T18bZ). Mint unhinged £25.00
- 419 **1899 ½d Postage Due.** Very fine used strip of 3, centre stamp with major 'No Stop After D' variety (Y8aZ) £42.50
- (N.B. The sheet position of the above variety is R2/3 of the right-hand pane, **not** the position given in our Catalogue, which is in fact that of the other listed variety, No Stop After N)
- 420 **1899 1d Postage Due.** Mint copy with 'small D' (Y12a), perforated 'SPECIMEN'. unusual! £10.00
- 421 **N.Z. Meter Mark No. 1.** Unused envelope bearing a fine impression (possibly a trial) of the original rubber die (Handbook, Vol 3, Page 431, Meter No. 1) .. £25.00

PENNY UNIVERSALS

More superb offers from the Michael Burberry collection.

- 422(a) **London Prints (G1a).** A complete mint sheet of 240. Some parting perfs. around the periphery, but the whole is in remarkably fine and fresh condition. Wonderful for the student of re-entries (and of the Waterlow perforating heads). Cat. \$ 4200 as normal single stamps £600.00
- (b) **As above.** The specialised collection of 'Londons' on 20 album leaves, fully written up and beautifully illustrated. Two of the special 1901 'Sir Joseph Ward' printed cards introduce the collection of 200 mint (and one used), virtually all being in blocks of varying size. A few imperfections, but condition generally very fine £625.00

First Local Plates — the Re-entries. Each of the lots that follow is accompanied by superb hand-drawn illustrations of the plate varieties concerned.

- 423 **Pirie Paper, Perf. 11 (G2a).** Irregular mint block of 13 including the plate 1 re-entries at R1/16, 1/18, 1/19, 2/17 and 2/18 £37.50
- 424 **As above.** Mint block of 4 incl. Pl. 1, R1/16 £15.00
- 425 **As above.** Irregular block of 11 including plate 1, R1/19, 1/24 and 2/19 £32.50
- 426 **As above.** Irregular block of 35 from plate 1. Just one very minor re-entry (R2/2) included, but a delightful block in its own right — fresh, well centred and in a lovely rich bright shade £67.50
- 427 **As above.** Marginal block of 15, showing impression of the large plate-retaining screw in the selvedge, and the pl. 1 R4/24 re-entry £42.50

428	As above. Strip of 8 from bottom left of sheet (with complete selvages), including the pl. 1 R10/7 and 10/8 re-entries. In addition, all stamps show the variety Double Perforations (G2aZ), of slightly different gauge, at the bottom. An unusually interesting piece	£52.50
429	As above. A magnificent block of 36 (6 x 6) including the plate 1, R10/7, 10/8 and 10/9 re-entries	£80.00
430	As above. Top left corner block of 32 (4 x 8) with a huge vertical pre-printing paper crease affecting all eight stamps in column 2. This block is from plate 2, and includes major re-entries on R1/1, 6/2, 8/1 and 8/4, as well as minor ones on R2/1 and 4/2. A few light perf. tone spots do not obtrude, and the retaining screw impression in the left selvedge adds the final touch to a spectacular block	£85.00
431	As above. The minor pl. 2 R1/17 re-entry in mint block of 4	£15.00
432	As above. Mint block of 8 from pl. 2 in a deep shade showing the major R5/20 re-entry, and more minor ones on R6/21 and 6/22	£27.50
433	As above. Corner block of 6 (with sheet serial number) incl. the minor plate 2 re-entries on R1/24 and 2/24	£25.00
434	As above. Block of 6 from plate 3, showing the R6/14 re-entry	£22.50
435	As above. The same re-entry in a much bigger block of 36, which also includes the major R7/16 re-entry, and a minor one on R10/18. Some split perfs. and four stamps (none varieties) creased or damaged	£65.00

Dandy Roll Numbers. These are watermarked numbers (1, 2, 3 or 4) identifying the dandy roll used in the making of the Cowan watermarked paper, and appeared sideways in the extreme bottom right corner of issued sheets when the selvedge was sufficiently wide.

436	Roll No. 1. Shown here in a magnificent corner block of 12 from the 'Dot' plates, all stamps having mixed perfs. (G8d), with some official patching. The block, offered at a fraction of catalogue value of the stamps	£87.50
437(a)	Roll No. 2. In block of 4 from the Reserve Plate — again all stamps have mixed perfs. (G6d) with official patching. The rare block (Cat. C.P. \$ 2400, S.G. £1300 as single stamps)	£450.00
(b)	As above. Another example of Dandy Roll No. 2, in mint block of 4 from Royle Trial Plate R2, which includes the very clear value tablet retouch on R9/24	£45.00
(c)	As above. A third example, in mint block of 6, Royle perf. 14 (G10a)	£30.00
438(a)	Roll No. 3. In mint corner pair of G5a	£19.50
(b)	As above. In corner block of 12 of G8d (matching block to lot 436)	£87.50
(c)	As above. In another mixed perfs. block (of 8 stamps) from the Dot Plates ..	£75.00
(d)	As above. In corner block of 4 of G5d (Cat. \$ 900 as single stamps)	£145.00

439(a)	Roll No. 4. In corner block of 4 of G5a	£30.00
(b)	As above. In corner block of 4 of the scarce comb perf. issue from the Royle Plates (G10f)	£175.00

OFFERS OF THE MONTH

440	3d Air Mail. The very scarce 1931 design, but perf. 14 x 15 (V1b, S.G. 548a). Fresh lightly hinged mint. Cat. \$ 250 (S.G. £190)	£60.00
441	5/- Long Fiscal. Brilliant mint unhinged copy on Cowan paper with reversed watermark (Z6k). Cat. \$ 275. Offered at	£57.50
442	1957 Ross Dependency. Complete set of 4 (3d, 4d, 8d, 1/6), mint unhinged. Cat. \$ 30 (S.G. £13). Price to Bulletin subscribers during April only	£6.90

SELVEDGE MARKING BLOCKS — USED

A most unusual listing of sheet marking blocks from recent definitive issues — all genuine used (nothing C.T.O. here, all have been used on commercial packets between Auckland and England), and all in superb condition with circular datestamp cancellations. Hurry, only one of each available:—

443	\$ 2 Shell (PA20a). Imprint block of 6, with one reprint asterisk by R10/1, and the large yellow flaw sometimes found below R10/2	£12.00
444(a)	24c Map, perf. 12½ x 12½ (PA35a). Plate/imprint block of 6, plate dots 2: 1: 1, bottom selvedge perforated	£6.00
(b)	As above. Sheet value block of 4	£5.00
445(a)	24c Map, perf. 14½ x 14 (PA35b). Plate/imprint blocks of 6, plate dots 1: 1: 4, bottom selvedge perforated and not perforated. The two blocks ..	£5.50
(b)	As above. Sheet value block of 4	£2.25
446	1c Mineral, perf. 12½ x 12½ (PB1a). Plate/imprint block of 6, bottom selvedge perforated	£1.00
447(a)	2c Mineral, perf. 12½ x 12½ (PB2a) — scarce even in mint condition. Plate/imprint block of 6, bottom selvedge not perforated	£7.00
(b)	As above. Sheet value block of 4	£5.00
448(a)	\$ 1 and \$ 2 Birds (PB12/13). Two imprint blocks of 6, one each value	£15.25
(b)	As above. Two sheet value blocks of 4, one each value	£10.00
449(a)	\$ 3 and \$ 4 Birds (not yet listed). Two imprint blocks of 6, one each value ..	£35.00
(b)	As above. Two sheet value blocks of 4 one each value	£23.50

450 (a)	30c and 45c Birds (not yet listed). Two imprint blocks of 6, one each value .	£3.75
(b)	As above. Two sheet value blocks of 4, one each value	£2.50

MODERN VARIETIES

451	\$ 2 Shell (PA20a). Imprint block of 6, one asterisk reprint, with the large and prominent yellow flaw which appeared below R10/2	£11.00
452(a)	24c Map, perf. 14½ x 14 (PA35b). Plate 1 : 1 : 4, two blocks of 6 with R9/1 and 10/2 flaws respectively	£7.50
(b)	As above. Plate 2 : 1 : 5, block of 6 with R9/2 bulls-eye flaw	£3.50
(c)	As above. Sheet value block of 6, with R2/8 bulls-eye flaw	£3.50
453(a)	\$ 2 Bird (PB13a). The two catalogued shades, yellow and pale yellow background — striking contrasts	£5.00
(b)	As above. Marginal block of 4 with R4/5 flaw on stalk variety	£10.00
454	1984 Ferries 70c (S307a). Two background shades	£2.50
455	1985 Trams 35c— (S322a). Two green shades (value and New Zealand), pale and deep	£2.00
456(a)	1985 Xmas 18c (SC26a). A sheet value block of 4, with R2/10 red flaw in halo variety	£3.50
(b)	As above. Positional block of 6 with R10/5 blue flaw in red dress variety ...	£4.00
457	1985 Xmas 50c (SC26c). Corner block of 6 with R10/10 variety, blue flaw on yellow angel's shoulder	£5.00
458	1983 Health, 30c + 2c (T55c). Two red shades, also blue (cat) contrasts ...	£2.00
459	1984 Health 24c + 2c (T56a/b). Three se-tenant pairs, shades most colours including three brilliant contrasts in the "Clydesdale" horses. Lovely!	£4.00
460	1984 Health 30c + 2c (T56c). Two shade contrasts—fine brown horse shades.	£2.00

RECENT DEFINITIVE PLATE BLOCKS, Cont'd.

461(a)	10c Fruit (PB7a). Imprint blocks of 6, original issue, bottom selvage perforated or not perforated, each	75p
(b)	As above. Imprint blocks of 6, one (magenta) Kiwi reprint mark below R10/2, bottom selvage perforated or not perforated, each	55p
(c)	As above. Sheet value block of 4	45p
462(a)	20c Fruit (PB8a). Imprint blocks of 6, original issue, bottom selvage perforated or not perforated, each	90p

(b)	As above. Sheet value block of 4	70p
463(a)	30c Fruit (PB9a). Imprint blocks of 6, original issue, bottom selvage perforated or not perforated, each	£2.00
(b)	As above. Imprint blocks of 6, one Kiwi reprint mark below R10/2, bottom selvage perforated or not perforated, each	£1.50
(c)	As above. Sheet value block of 4	£1.20
464(a)	40c Fruit (PB10a). Imprint blocks of 6, original issue, bottom selvage perforated or not perforated, each	£2.50
(b)	As above. Imprint blocks of 6, one Kiwi reprint mark, bottom selvage perforated or not perforated, each	£1.90
(c)	As above. Imprint blocks of 6, two Kiwi reprint marks, bottom selvage perforated or not perforated, each	£3.20
(d)	As above. Sheet value block of 4	£1.40
465(a)	50c Fruit (PB11a). Imprint blocks of 6, original issue, bottom selvage perforated or not perforated, each	£3.00
(b)	As above. Imprint blocks of 6, one Kiwi reprint mark, bottom selvage perforated or not perforated, each	£2.50
(c)	As above. Sheet value block of 4	£1.90
466	25c Queen, Royal Portrait (PC1a). Imprint blocks of 6, bottom selvage perforated or not perforated, each	£1.20
467	35c Queen, Royal Portrait (PC2a). Imprint blocks of 6, bottom selvage perforated or not perforated, each	£1.70
(the concluding part of this listing — Birds — will appear next month)		

RECENT ISSUES

1987 Tourism (issued 14/1/87)	60c, 70c, 80c, 85c, \$1-05, \$1-30	
Mint set of 6		£3.40
Set of 6 imprint blocks (6 stamps per block), one each value		£22.00
Official Illustrated First Day Cover (Wanganui pmk)		£3.60

(Note: The above set of imprint blocks have left selvage perforated on the 70c, and left selvage **not** perforated on the other 5 values. We know that three of the latter (60c, 80c, 85c) also exist with perforated left selvage, so it is reasonable to assume that all 6 values exist "in the other form". Anyone requiring these additional imprint blocks should let us know and we will try to oblige)

1986 N.Z. Album Collection. The latest in the series, including all 1986 stamps (29) and Miniature sheets (2) housed in a lavishly illustrated and written-up green album and matching slip-in case. An impressive ready-made collection (post paid) £29.95