

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

1d Universal. For reasons which will shortly become clear, it is certain that at least one sheet from the First Local Plates on the Cowan watermarked paper was issued with the vertical perforations omitted. Nevertheless, although the C.P. Catalogue lists, as G5a(X), the variety in a horizontal pair, I am very doubtful that it exists in this ideal form. I don't recall ever having seen such a pair (other than on wants lists!), and certainly there were none in any of three major 1d Universal collections I have examined in the recent past. All they could muster among them were two or three pairs apparently without vertical perforations, but since all were vertical pairs, they were unsatisfactory. The Burberry collection, however, did include an interesting piece — a vertical block of 10 comprised of rows 6 to 10, stamps 1 and 2, of a sheet printed from plate 2, and imperforate vertically. But the block had been almost completely severed into two vertical strips by means of scissors or razor cut to within a fraction of an inch of the top. Michael Burberry's annotation of this block indicated that it was from a sheet, found at Waimate post office, which had been divided in half along the perforations between rows 5 and 6, and then cut vertically in the manner described between each column of stamps, leaving only a tiny unsevered portion at the tops of rows 1 and 6. This would obviously make it more convenient to dispense stamps from the rogue sheet to customers when required. A very similar ploy was sometimes adopted in the days of imperforate Full-Face Queens, which raises the intriguing question: Was the postmaster at Waimate in the early 1900s an old hand, drawing on his experience of 40 or more years earlier?

More recently still, we acquired another, much larger block, almost certainly from the same sheet. This one was of 30 stamps (rows 6 to 10, stamps 7 to 12, again from plate 2), and had been subjected to the same 'surgical' treatment — it was almost totally separated into six strips by vertical cuts.

These two blocks, then, are the only absolute proof we have of the 'imperf. vertically' variety, and if the Waimate sheet was the only one issued (as seems highly probable), that proof will continue to exist just so long as the tenuous connection between adjacent stamps from rows 1 and 6 remains. We have divided our block to provide three examples of a variety of much more than usual interest (see lot 1030 in this issue of the N.Z. Bulletin).

The Nihill Correspondence. Continuing with letter no. 5

Address Auckland

Sydney

Apr 21 1842

My own dear Mamma,

I am afraid you were dissappointed at my first letter being so short, and the second being addressed to Lizzy, and containing so little information (His reference here to 'first' and 'second' letters must discount the first two, which were written before the Tomatin sailed from Plymouth Sound — Ed.) I have written two or three letters in the voyage in the expectation of meeting homeward bound ships, but we could only send letters by one, the Vixen, and a very vixenish little craft she proved for instead of coming under our stern and passing to leeward of us as she should have done, she attempted to cross our bows and consequently ran foul of us. Providentially hardly any damage was done. She only lost her fortomast stemsail boom, and tore the sail and carried away our main topsail. However we very honourably returned them their property in one of our boats at the same time our letters, in doing which we found that their bulwarks were stove in, and their quarter damaged. But it was all their own fault for they were very clumsy, but there will most likely be a lawsuit about it. I have tried to give you some idea of our position. You must remember the Vixen was on our weather side. You see the Tomatin was going very fast nearly before the wind and the Vixen was much too far off to allow her to cross our bows before the Tomatin came up. Instead she ought to have made for our stern and then she could have managed easily to keep up with us on the lee side. We afterwards met the Seagull which afterwards promised to report the ship. It was so early in the morning that nobody but the Captain and Mr Cotton and I were up (except the crew) and the breeze was too fine to lie to to send letters, so we only spoke her. What a beautiful sight a ship at sea is, ploughing up the waves and dashing the white foam from her bows. Oh, it is a glorious sight. Speaking a ship is such an interesting thing. What ship is that? Where are you bound to? How long have you been out? What is your latitude? Will you report this ship? all follow each other in such quick succession that you wonder how you can crowd so much information in such a short space of time. Just off Montagu Island we had a very melancholy accident. One of the crew, a very nice young man, by the name of Tom Brown, a Suede, was hanging on the earing of the mainyard doing something to the reef points, when in attempting to get up again on to the yard, he lost his hold and fell into the sea. He managed to swim for some time, but before a boat could reach him the poor fellow was no more. As the boat was returning from its fruitless search, as they were attempting to get her alongside she was swamped and all her crew except one who climbed up the mizen chains were thrown into the water. One of them was saved by the Bishop, throwing him a life preserver. The second poor fellow was a very fine young man of the name of Alec Dick. Before he reached the ship he was heard to say, indeed I believe they were almost his last words "Now, my lads, let this be a warning to us all, for we dont know how soon we may be hurried into eternity". Oh how true that is. I hope this dreadful lesson was not lost on some of us. I shall never forget it it was such a dreadful sight, to see the poor fellow struggling in the water. The Bishop preached a beautiful sermon in the evening. All the crew and all the steerage passengers attended. What a thing it is to know how to swim. If poor Alec had been able to swim there was every chance humanely speaking of his being saved. But I must dismiss this painful subject humbly praying that God may teach me to number my days, that I may apply my heart unto righteousness. I take every opportunity of bathing, and I am now laid up with some very sore cuts in my foot, which I got in bathing the other day. We arrived here on the 14th Thursday, and our arrival was announced in the Sydney Herald in flaming characters. I of course was

put down as Mr Nichall. The Bishop has taken such a beautiful house in Farm Cove near Mr Jones. It reminds me very much of Mr Fletchers that is on the outside. There is a beautiful collonade but it is not furnished at all. We have brought up some cabin furniture and manage to do very well. We call it the barracks. We are rather a large party. Butt and Evans and Fisher and myself belong to the party. The Bishop and Mrs Selwyn are staying at the Bishop of Australias. Mrs Martin is staying at another house, so we are all about the place. The grounds of the house extend all the way down to the water, so it is very convenient for boats. I am improving my swimming every day. The Bishop is so kind to me he treats me just like his own son. I like him and Mrs S. they are both so kind to me. When we were on board the Tomatin Mrs Selwyn used to call to me off the poop, if I happened to be on the quarterdeck to get things for her, if all the others were there, and once or twice she sent the steward to call me to help her down the ladder. Mrs Martin always call me her page. I like her so much. She is so very ladylike and so very kind. Perhaps I may be in the lasses good graces because I am the youngest, but I hope it is because they find that I try to make myself useful and agreeable to everybody.

(To be concluded)

TOP QUALITY 1D UNIVERSALS AT UNREPEATABLE PRICES

The concluding part of last month's bargain offers.

1001(a)	Reserve Plate, Perf. 14 (G6a). Mint set of four superb deep rich shades, so typical of 'Reserve' stamps	£45.00
(b)	As above. An exquisite corner block of 4 with sheet serial number, stamps in the carmine-pink shade. Condition brilliant	£55.00
(c)	As above. Finest mint block of 4 in deep carmine	£45.00
(d)	As above. Another block in bright carmine. Superfine	£50.00
(e)	As above. Another superb bright carmine block, this one including the R9/4 and 10/3 re-entries	£75.00
(f)	As above. The R10/10 re-entry, yet again in a lovely bright carmine block with three normals	£62.50
(g)	As above. Superb deep carmine block of 4 including the R5/4 re-entry	£62.50
(h)	As above. Plate proof block of 4, imperf., printed in black. Minor R4/22 re-entry plates the block to R3-4/21-22, thus all four impressions show the characteristic London Plate dot above the left hand end of the value tablet (Reserve Plate R1-5/21-22, i.e. ten positions only, were laid down with the same transfer roller impression as that used for the London Plate). The interesting proof block	£30.00
1002	Reserve Plate, Mixed Perfs (G6d). Finest mint copy, perf. 11 at bottom, perf. 14 other three sides	£80.00

1003(a) Booklet Issue (G7a).	Set of two, superb mint, in magnificent shades	£20.00
(b) As above.	Similarly fine shades, but in horizontal pairs	£40.00
(c) As above.	Complete booklet pane of 6 (binding selvage intact), in superfine mint condition. Pane is from position no. 3, thus all three stamps at left show re-entries (listed in the C.P. Catalogue as R1/5, 2/5 and 3/5	£85.00
(d) As above.	A complete 'Official' pane (W02aZ), very lightly hinged in binding selvage only	£12.00
1004(a) Dot Plates, Perf. 14 (G8a).	Set of five magnificent shades, complete as listed in C.P. Finest mint	£15.00
(b) As above.	Two fine mint blocks of 4, one from the early (relatively unworn) state of the plates, the other showing pronounced plate wear. Also excellent shades	£10.00
(c) As above.	Marginal mint block of 4 in a brilliant aniline carmine-lake shade. Quite outstanding colour. Condition ditto (selvage hinge only)	£40.00
(d) As above.	Another block in the same dazzling shade, and including the Plate 1 R4/8 and 4/9 rosette retouches (all four stamps also show good value-tablet retouches). Superfine	£45.00
1005	Dot Plates, Perf. 11 x 14 (G8b). Finest mint copy	£40.00
1006	Dot Plates, Mixed Perfs. (G8d). Marginal block of 4, originally perf. 14 all round, re-perfed 11 horizontally. With official patching. Superb	£20.00
1007	Waterlow Trial Plates. Set of five imperf. plate proofs (all from plate W1), printed respectively in black, deep plum, bright red, dull blue and deep violet. The plum and violet items are punched with a small circular hole in one corner. Scarce, colourful and most unusual quintet	£45.00
1008(a) Waterlow Trial Plates, Perf. 14 (G9a).	Set of two mint, one each from plates W1 and W2, superb shades	£9.50
(b) As above.	Marginal block of four (from plate W1), brilliant unhinged	£25.00
(c) As above.	Finest mint block of 4 including two major plate W1 re-entries (illustrations of the varieties supplied)	£30.00
(d) As above.	Vertical pair with major variety Imperf. Horizontally (G9aY) — both stamps show big re-entries	£60.00
(e) As above.	Another pair (marginal) with the same major perf. variety, but in a very distinctive carmine-lake shade (carmine-lakes are hitherto unrecorded in any Waterlow Trial Plates issue). Minor gum adhesions, otherwise superb ..	£95.00
1009	Waterlow/Royle Combined! An unique marginal block of 9 (3 x 3), the central stamp being from plate W2, completely surrounded by eight stamps from one of the Royle plates. The original (Royle) block of nine stamps has	

had the central unit excised after the vertical perforations, gauging 14, had been completed; an unperforated 'Waterlow' has been officially patched in to replace it; the sheet has then been perforated 14 horizontally and the first three vertical columns re-perforated 11 vertically. Blobs of printing ink in the selvedge, and on one of the remaining 'Royle' stamps, are a clear indication that the excised stamp had been accidentally and unacceptably spoiled, necessitating the repair. An exhibition block, comprised of eight Royle stamps with mixed perfs (G10e), surrounding a Waterlow perf. 14 x 11 (G9d)		£525.00
1010(a) Royle Plates, Perf. 14 (G10a).	Set of no less than eight blocks of 4 in a marvellous range of shades. One or two minor gum creases, but appearance and general condition very fine	£40.00
(b) As above.	Marginal pair with major variety Imperf. Horizontally (G10aZ). Immaculate	£58.50
(c) As above.	The same variety, but in brilliant mint block of 4	£120.00
(d) As above.	Plate block of 4 with the full Four-Dot plate marking. Stamps centred a little to the left, but beautifully fresh and fine, and a great rarity. Cat. \$ 5000	£775.00
1011(a) Royle Plates, Perf. 11 (G10b).	Superb mint copy	£37.50
(b) As above.	Equally fine mint block of 4	£160.00
1012(a) Royle Plates, Perf. 14 x 11 (G10c).	Fine mint copy, centred to right	£25.00
(b) As above.	Not quite so fine example	£15.00
(c) As above.	Superb mint block of 4	£125.00
1013(a) Royle Plates, Perf. 11 x 14 (G10d).	Brilliant unhinged mint copy	£35.00
(b) As above,	but lightly hinged	£25.00
(c) As above.	Very fine mint block of 4 (2HM/2UHM)	£125.00
(d) As above.	Plate block of 4, perf. 11 x 14, with plate number R2 in bottom selvedge. Stamps centred to right. A rare block, fresh and fine	£175.00
1014(a) Royle Plates, Perf. 14 x 14½ Comb (G10f).	Very fine mint copy, well centred for this issue	£18.50
(b) As above.	Top marginal block of 4 with typical centring (which is very mediocre to put it mildly). But centring apart, the block is superb unhinged mint. This issue is a clear case of the workman not being as good as his tools, for the 14 x 14½ comb head was potentially the best of all the machines available for perforating any of the 1d Universals	£27.50
(c) As above.	And here is the exception to that rather sad fact – a bottom selvedge block of 9, beautifully fresh mint, and centring in this case just about as perfect as one could ever hope to see, giving an aesthetically delightful piece. The rare, rare block	£225.00

K.G.V SURFACE PRINTS – VARIETIES

The continuation of last months variety offers.

- 1015(a) 1d Field Marshal, Cowan Paper, Perf. 14 (K15a).** Mint pair with massive downward shift (5mm) of perforations as well as a not-so-massive shift to the left (1½mm), Pair thus shows portions of six stamps! Fair condition £5.00
- (b) **As above.** Block of 4 with similar, but even more massive perf. misplacement (11mm low and 5mm right). The block has been cut where the perfs. **should** have been placed, giving an apparently imperf. block of 4, and is genuinely used on piece of a newspaper wrapper, with distinctive Wellington newspaper cancel. Very unusual, and very attractive £25.00
- (c) **As above.** Used copy with a confetti flaw (an uncoloured disc 3mm in diameter) £12.50
- (d) **As above.** Fine mint copy showing the unique and prominent re-entry which occurred on R3/15 of the booklet plate £30.00
- (e) **As above.** The same booklet plate re-entry, but in complete pane of six, with "Parisian" adverts. in side selvages, and sheet serial number at top right. Superfine mint £140.00
- (f) **As above.** Marginal mint copy with variety "No Stop After OFFICIAL" (K015aX) £10.00
- (g) **As above.** Commercially used copy with the 'No Stop' variety £7.50
- (h) **As above.** The 'No Stop' variety again, but in superfine mint block of 4 with three normals £15.00
- 1016(a) 1d Field Marshal, Cowan Reversed Watermark Paper (K15c).** Found in a range of delightful shades (nay, colours!) not seen in any other issue of the 1d Field Marshal. This set of three mint is specially selected to include one from each main group – a rose-carmine, a scarlet, and a claret. Brilliant contrasts! £35.00
- (b) **As above.** One set only, same superb shades, in mint blocks of 4 £125.00
- 1017 1d Field Marshal, Wiggins Teape Paper.** Finest mint copy with variety Offset on Back (K15dX) £12.50
- 1018 1½d Black, Local Plate.** Used copy with the good constant R1/11 variety (K16aX) £9.50
- 1019(a) 2d Yellow, Cowan Paper, Perf. 14 x 15; Unhinged mint copy with strong Offset on Back (K18dZ)** £11.50
- (b) **As above.** The same variety, in mint corner block of 4 £45.00
- 1020(a) 2d Yellow, Cowan Paper, Perf. 14.** Mint vertical pair in deep orange, upper stamp showing variety Imperf. at Top, with selvedge (K18eY) £30.00

(b) As above. 'No Stop After Official' variety, in mint pair with normal (KO18eZ). Minor hinge thinning	£7.50
1021 2d Yellow, Wiggins Teape Paper, Perf. 14. Top marginal copy with Imperf. at Top variety (K18hX). Facial appearance perfect, but some perf. tones on gummed side	£12.50
1022(a) 3d Chocolate, Cowan Paper, Perf. 14. Mint copy with the listed Flaw on Face variety (K19dZ). Fine	£17.50
(b) As above. Mint single with variety 'No Stop After Official' (KO19dY)	£15.00

KING GEORGE VI DEFINITIVES (Continued)

1023(a) 6d Carmine, fine paper (M10a). Two mint contrasts	90p
(b) As above. Imprint/plate blocks, nos. 92 and 98	£6.00
(c) As above. Inverted Watermark variety (M10aZ)	£25.00
(d) As above. Block of 8, defective wmk. variety	£12.50
(e) As above. Counter coil pair, rubber-stamped coil no. (MC1j)	£5.50
(f) As above. Complete set of MC1j coil pairs numbered 1 – 19. Cat. \$ 285	£67.50
(g) As above. Counter coil pair, machine-printed black coil no. (MC2h)	£4.00
(h) As above. Complete set of MC2h coil pairs numbered 1 – 19. Cat. \$ 190 ..	£45.00
(i) As above. The overprinted Official issue (MO10a), mint single	£4.50
(j) As above, but a marginal block of 4	£17.50
1024(a) 6d Carmine, coarse paper (M10b). Mint single	£6.00
(b) As above. Marginal block of 4, perfect	£22.50
(c) As above. Imprint/plate block of 4, plate no. 146, as it must be, of course – Cat. \$ 100	£35.00
(d) As above. The overprinted Official issue (MO10b), imprint/plate block of 4. Cat. \$ 100, and very scarce	£35.00
1025(a) 8d Violet, fine paper (M11a). Two fine shade contrasts	£1.50
(b) As above. All 3 imprint/plate blocks of six (nos. 93, 95, 99)	£12.00
(c) As above. Block of 8 with defective wmk. variety	£12.50
(d) As above. Counter coil pair (Mc2j)	£4.50
(e) As above. The overprinted Official issue (MO11a) single copy	£7.50

(f) As above. Two lovely shades of the MO11a Official stamp	£15.00
(g) As above. Superb unmounted block of 4	£30.00
1026(a) 8d Violet, coarse paper (M11b). Two superb shades	£9.00
(b) As above. Imprint/plate block of 6, plate no. 110	£27.50
(c) As above. Two papers, one normal (thick) the other thin. Lovely	£10.00
(d) As above. Counter coil pair (MC2k). Special offer (Cat. \$ 30)	£5.00
(e) As above. MC2k counter coil pair, coil no. 15 showing the section number variety "thick 1", together with a normal pair for comparison	£17.50

(to be continued)

1030

1d UNIVERSAL PROVING PIECE

Vertical block of 10 (2 x 5) from a sheet issued without vertical perforations. Block almost completely severed into two strips, but topmost pair remain se-tenant by a fraction of an inch, thus proving the existence of the 'imperf. vertically' variety G5a(X). One of only four such proving pieces known to us. The block has been reinforced for obvious reasons

£200.00

RECENT ISSUES

1987 National Parks (this year's Scenic issue). 70c, 80c, 85c, \$ 1.30, issued 17/6/87.	
Mint set of 4	£2.50
Set of four imprint blocks (6 stamps each block) with left selvage perforated. These imprints also have 4 large colour code dots under R10/3 (a new departure for N.Z.)	£17.50
Matching set of imprint blocks, but with left selvage not perforated	£17.50
Official illustrated First Day Cover (Wanganui pmk.)	£2.70
Miniature Sheet, featuring the Tongariro National Park (\$ 1.30 stamp). This miniature sheet incorporates a 40c surcharge in support of the N.Z. 1990 World Philatelic Exhibition in Auckland	£1.15
5c Mineral , 3 Kiwi reprint, imprint block of 6 (1 block only, bottom selvage perforated)	25p
10c Fruit , 2 Kiwi reprint, imprint block of 6 (1 block only, bottom selvage perforated)	50p
\$ 3 Bird , 1 Kiwi reprint, imprint block of 6	£14.00
40c Bird , 1 Kiwi reprint, two imprint blocks of 6 (left selvage perforated and not perforated), both on "coarse" paper	£4.00
New \$ 4 and \$ 4.40 Booklets (with the new "New Zealand Post" logo, toned not white card, changed address inside back cover), each includes one vertical pane of 10 (2 x 5) of the 40c bird stamp attached by the top selvage:	
(i) plain binding selvage	£6.00
(ii) binding selvage with sheet-value marking	£6.00
(iii) bottom selvage with imprint markings (plus 1 Kiwi reprint mark) ..	£6.00