

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

London Print 1d Universal — an Unsolved Puzzle. We have on hand at present a complete sheet of this stamp. Not of itself particularly remarkable — we know of several still extant. But what is certainly notable about this sheet is that **it bears the printed sheet serial number 1 in the top right corner.** Some might therefore conclude that this was the very first sheet to be printed, or at the least that it has some unique significance. Attractive as such thoughts are, things **may** not alas be quite what they seem to be. Some mystery attaches to these 'London Print' serial numbers, and although I've little doubt the question has been aired before, I'm not aware that any definite conclusion to it has been reached.

It is well documented (Volume 1 of the N.Z. Handbook goes into the detail in some depth) that one million of the stamps were originally ordered from Waterlow and Sons (in late August — early September 1900), and a further million a few weeks later, on October 20th. Even if treated by Waterlows as entirely separate orders, each would require a printing of well over 4000 sheets (at 240 stamps to the sheet). Yet to my knowledge no four-digit sheet number, i.e. 1000 or higher, has ever been found. Certainly I have never seen one — in fact, although I have not kept any record, my recollection is that the highest serial number I have seen in this issue is four-hundred-and-something. This odd situation cannot, I'm sure, be explained by either chance or bad luck, for pieces showing a sheet serial number have been preserved in some quantity, due to the presence of several good re-entries in that corner of the sheet. So it seems probable that the sheets of paper used by Waterlow and Sons for their printing of the 1d Universal were numbered in batches of (say) 500 at a time, commencing at no. 1 for the first sheet of each fresh batch. If that were the case, then obviously each individual number would be duplicated many times over (and incidentally, the numbering system would seem to have had little to do with any security measures, and much more to do with the convenience of printers in their handling of large quantities of sheets of paper).

Resolution of the puzzle requires the collation of as many sheet serial numbers as possible and that in turn requires the co-operation of all who hold examples. The basic questions to be answered are: (1) What is the highest number extant and (2) is it possible to trace any duplication of any number. So, please, examine your collection and let us have a note of **any** sheet serial number you possess (G1a only, of course). Even if you find you have only one example, whatever the number, don't be shy — we'd appreciate a note of it. All are of equal importance in this little project.

(Footnote: It is almost certain that an exactly similar situation arises in any of the London Print First Pictorials. The problem there would be locating sufficient examples from which to draw any conclusions).

1d Universal Waterlow Trial Plate W2. The "No Sea Under Globe" variety (illustrated below right) is widely known. It occurs on four different positions — R1/16, 1/23, 6/15 and 6/18 (the last of these also shows a major re-entry, in addition to the "No Sea").



Much less well known is a strangely similar and equally striking variety, but to the **left** of Zealandia, affecting the mast and rigging of the ship, and the roughly triangular-shaped patch of sky shading immediately behind (illustrated above left). Like the "No Sea", this "No Sky" variety is due to a weakness of the design in the area concerned, occurs in several positions on the sheet, and varies a little in extent. The most extreme examples I have noted occur on R2/18, 2/19, 2/22, 7/15 and 7/21, and a slightly less extreme case is found on R6/15, so this stamp shows both "No Sea" and "No Sky" !

1970 PICTORIALS — ERRORS

All items in the following listing were available through our New Issue Service at the time they were first discovered, but frequently there were not sufficient quantities to satisfy demand. Nowadays they become available only when a collection of the issue comes on the market, so this is a rare chance to fill that gap, and at the same time add a touch of sparkle to your collection. Condition is perfect unhinged mint throughout.

- | | | |
|--------|--|---------|
| 201 | 2c Tussock Butterfly. Copy on unwmk'd paper with variety "Yellow Colour Offset on Back" (P3bY). Unusual and attractive | £57.50 |
| 202(a) | 4c Puriri Moth. Major error "Purple-Brown Colour Omitted". (P6cX). One of several outstandingly spectacular missing colours in this issue. Cat. \$380 (S.G. £170) | £125.00 |
| (b) | As above. Blue Colour Omitted (P6cW) — another fabulous eye-catching variety, the blue being the second most prominent colour in the normal stamp. Marginal copy | £115.00 |
| (c) | As above. Dark Green (Wing Veins) Omitted (P6cZ). Not in the 'spectacular' class of the previous two items, but still a genuine missing colour error, and | |

	cheap. We offer a set of three marginal copies showing (i) veins totally omitted; (ii) veins partly omitted; (iii) normal	£9.00
203	7c Leather Jacket. Marginal copy (unwmk'd) with major shift of the black colour to the right, leaving both fish with companions swimming in formation !	£15.00
204	8c John Dory. Horizontal pair (wmk'd), left stamp showing a broad vertical streak of defective printing, not unlike a doctor blade flaw, but in this case due to a band of defectively surfaced paper	£7.50
205(a)	10c Coat of Arms. Unwatermarked copy with error Red Colour Omitted (P12bZ). Although the only red in the design is one of the tiny hair ribbons, its omission is surprisingly noticeable when the error stamp is placed alongside a normal (supplied)	£27.50
	(b) As above. A most unusual major upward perforation shift, resulting in the dark blue horizontal lines (normally framing the top and bottom of the design) both appearing at the top. Nice one !	£22.50
206(a)	18c Maori Club. Unwatermarked copy with good shift of the black colour to the right — the effect is a distinctly "out-of-focus" club	£8.75
	(b) As above. Similar colour shift, but in this case of the brown, resulting in a spectacular "highlighted club" effect	£11.50
207(a)	50c Abel Tasman National Park. Major error "Headland on Right (pale green) Omitted". This occurred in both the second and third printings — our copy is the much scarcer second printing variety (P19aZ(1)), clearly proven by the pinkish-buff shore colour	£67.50
	(b) As above. Another second printing error — 'Shore Omitted' (P19aY). Cat. \$200, very special offer at	£30.00
208(a)	4c on 2½ c Provisional. Corner strip of 5, Photogravure surcharge, with the red colour largely omitted from the corner stamp, and partly omitted from the adjacent copy (P30aY). Rare	£115.00
	(b) As above. Copy with very major misplacement of surcharge — bars are at top right, and '4c' at bottom left (P30aU)	£42.50
	(c) As above. Marginal example (Harrison letterpress printing) with Surcharge Doubly Printed (P30bW). This is a rare case of a complete and true double print, both impressions (of both value and bars) being of full strength	£135.00
	(d) As above. Another fine variety stamp, this one showing complete "Offset of Surcharge on Back" (P30bV)	£35.00
	(e) As above. Positional block of 12 including the excellent R5/1 variety "Bars of Surcharge Almost Totally Missing" (P30bT)	£9.25
	(f) As above. Superb example of the variety "Double Impression of Surcharge, One Albino" (P30bS). The albino print is out of register with the printed surcharge, and is deeply impressed	£22.50

..... AND OTHER VARIETIES

..... From the same 1970 Pictorial issues. Unless otherwise stated all items are unmounted mint, and where necessary full annotation will be included.

209(a)	½c Butterfly (P1a). Corner block of 12, plate 1A, R1/6 and R2/1 varieties (PV1a)	£5.00
(b)	As above. Corner block of 10, plate 1A, R6/20, R8/20 and R9/20 varieties (PV1c)	£5.00
(c)	As above. Marginal block of 6, plate 1B, R3/14 retouch (PV1d) — note, our Catalogue gives the sheet position as R3/4, this is a printing error	£5.00
(d)	As above. Positional block of 8 with R10/5 retouch, and first state of R10/8 flaw (PV1e)	£5.00
(e)	As above. Two positional blocks of 8 (plate 1B) both with R10/5 retouch, and showing two distinctly different states of the R10/8 flaw (as described in Vol. 6, N.Z. Handbook)	£12.50
210(a)	1c Butterfly, Watermarked Paper (P2a). Marginal block of 12, plate 1B, with R7/3, R9/1, R9/4 retouches (PV2a)	£5.00
(b)	As above. Marginal block of 10, plate 1B, R3/10 and R5/9 retouches (PV2c) ...	£5.00
211(a)	1c Butterfly, No Wmk. Paper (P2c). Marginal block of 12 with R7/3 variety (PV2a) — plate varieties on the unwatermarked paper are seldom seen nowadays	£10.00
(b)	As above. Imprint/plate (1B) block of 10, with R9/1 and R9/4 retouches	£5.00
212(a)	2c Butterfly (P3a). Corner block of 12, plate 1A, with R8/17, R9/17 and R9/18 retouches (PV3a)	£5.00
(b)	As above. Inverted watermark variety (P3aZ)	£2.00
(c)	As above. Positional block of 4 with R9/17 and 9/18 retouches (PV3a), but on inverted watermarked paper. Unusual !	£12.50
213(a)	3c Moth, Watermarked paper (P5a). Marginal block of 10, plate 1A, R8/13 retouch (PV5b)	£5.00
(b)	As above. Positional block of 8, plate 1B, R2/14 retouch (PV5e)	£5.00
(c)	As above. Imprint/plate (1B) block of 10 with R9/4 flaw (PV5f)	£5.00
(d)	As above. Positional block of 10, plate 1A, R10/9 flaw (PV5g)	£5.00
(e)	As above. Marginal block of 6, plate 1A, with R3/9 and 3/10 large retouch extending over both stamps (PV5h)	£6.00
(f)	As above. Imprint/plate (1A2A) block of 10, with R10/4 and 10/5 retouches (PV5L)	£5.00

(g)	As above. Corner block of 8, plate 1A, with R7/20 flaw and R10/20 retouch .	£5.00
(h)	As above. Marginal block of 10, plate 1B, R6/13 flaw	£5.00
(i)	As above. Positional block of 6, plate 1A, with R7/3 flaw	£5.00
(j)	As above. Inverted Watermark varieties (P5aY) :—	
(i)	Single copy	£1.00
(ii)	Two brown background shades	£2.50
(iii)	Imprint/plate (1A2A) block of 10, includes the R10/4 and R10/5 retouches (PV5L)	£15.00
(iv)	Marginal block of 6, plate 1A, with R3/9 and R3/10 large retouch (PV5h)	£10.00
(v)	Corner block of 24, including R1/8 retouch (PV5a) and R3/5 flaw	£30.00
214(a)	3c Moth, Unwatermarked Paper (P5c). Marginal block of 6, plate 2A1A, with R3/9 and R3/10 large retouches (PV5h)	£10.00
(b)	As above. Imprint/plate (2B1B) block of 10 with R10/1 retouch (PV5k)	£5.00
(c)	As above. Positional block of 4, plate 2A1A, with R6/2 flaw	£7.00
215(a)	4c Moth, Watermarked Paper (P6a). Positional block of 8, plate 1A, with R1/14 and R2/14 flaws (PV6b)	£5.00
(b)	As above. Inverted watermark variety (P6aZ)	£2.00
(c)	As above. Imprint/plate (1B) block of 10, with inverted wmk.	£25.00
216(a)	4c Moth, Sideways Wmk. (P6b). Booklet pane of 6, with R2/1 white flaw (W10aWc), also shows R2/2 retouch	£7.50
(b)	As above. The very scarce Watermark Inverted (P6bY) variety — this example has full perms on all 4 sides. Nice !	£65.00
217(a)	4c Moth, Unwatermarked Paper (P6c). Marginal block of 6, plate 1A, R1/14 and 2/14 flaws (PV6b)	£7.50
(b)	As above. Marginal block of 14, plate 1A, with plate scratch across blue panel on R4/5—7	£10.00
(c)	As above. Imprint/plate (1A) block of 10 with R9/4 scratch in blue panel (this variety developed during the No wmk. printing)	£7.50
218(a)	5c Fish (P7a). Corner block of 6, plate 1A, with R3/2 flaw (PV7a)	£7.50
(b)	As above. Two sheet value blocks of 10, (i) with correct \$ 10 sheet value; (ii) with erroneous \$ 12 sheet value obliterated and correct \$ 10 printed alongside	£25.00
219(a)	7c Fish, Watermarked Paper (P9a). Marginal block of 4, plate 1A, R1/18 retouch (PV9a)	£7.50
(b)	As above. Corner block of 10, plate 1A, R10/20 flaw (PV9b)	£10.00
	(to be concluded)	

We have acquired a huge accumulation of "Dominions". There must be many thousands, a large proportion still being on paper – this is the best guarantee that they are genuinely unsorted for the various issues, but we have ourselves checked a sample, and found examples of most of the listed plate varieties present too. Broken down (by weight) into manageable lots – we estimate each contains 450 – 500 stamps – this makes a rare C.P. Bulletin 'special' at, per lot

£11.50

1893 – 94 ADSON – MORE OFFERS

In December last we listed a number of Adson. We are now able to offer the following unusual and rare, much of which is seldom available. Unless otherwise stated all stamps are used, and the overall condition is extremely good for these.

- 232(a) Perf. 12 x 11½** (all Adson in this perf. are scarce). 2d with red advert, and provably Third Setting (Poneke Ad) – DA 3c(5) £10.00
- (b) **As above.** Five different 2d Adson. Lovely £50.00
- (c) **As above.** 2½d with green advert (DA4c(2)). Fair copy only, hence £5.00
- (d) **As above.** 1/- Adson (DA10c). Listed only in black and purple, but this example has a distinctly reddish look £12.50

(Note: All subsequent stamps are perf. 10).

- 233(a) First Setting.** In this setting eight adverts had white letters on a coloured background (block-type). These were changed in the Second Setting to coloured letters on a white background. Our offer is of a set of eight (1d x 5, 2d x 3) showing the complete range of block-type First Setting adverts £30.00
- (b) **As above.** Six different First Setting 1d's (DA2e(1)) £12.50
- (c) **As above.** Fourteen different First Setting 2d's (DA3c(1)) £30.00

234 Second/Third Settings. The basic difference between the Second and Third Settings is that 20 Cadbury adverts in the former were replaced in the latter by three different Poneke adverts. Unusually we can offer:—

- (a) **1d.** Set of 4, comprising a Cadbury and one each of the three different Ponekes £7.50
- (b) **2½d.** A similar set of 4 £17.50
- (c) **3d.** Another set of 4 – the Cadbury advert is in the scarce sepia shade. £30.00
- (d) **4d.** Similar set of 4 – Cadbury in brown, Ponekes in mauve £12.50
- (e) **1/-.** Just two stamps here – a Cadbury and one Poneke £15.00

- 235(a) 1d.** Four different advert colours (alas not including a blue or a green !) .. £5.00
- (b) **As above.** Second Setting with R9/2 Screwdriver flaw £7.50
- (c) **As above.** Range of no less than 82 different adverts. A superb lot for the collector seeking to start a reconstruction £100.00
- (d) **As above.** Copy with reversed watermark variety – red-brown advert £22.50

236(a)	2d. Six different advert colours, including green and brown	£10.00
	(b) As above. Advertisements were printed on the backs of stamps for only about 12 months during 1893/1894. This 1894 envelope, therefore, bearing a 2d with Adson is particularly nice	£20.00
237(a)	2½d. Three shades of advert, green, purple, mauve	£12.50
	(b) As above. Of the higher values the 2½d (and the 4d) is most "frequently" seen. This selection of 52 different 2½ds, therefore, is an ideal opportunity to start that higher-value reconstruction	£135.00
	(c) As above. Adson with reversed watermark variety (DA4e(1)Z)	£22.50
238(a)	3d. Set of 3 in the basic 3d advert colours of brown, red and mauve	£17.50
	(b) As above. Advert in the very scarce Sepia shade	£17.50
	(c) As above. Registered envelope with 3d (Poneke advert) and 4d (no adverts), adhesives, used in 1895	£30.00
239(a)	4d. Set of two showing the 4d advert colours of brown (Second Setting) and mauve (Third Setting)	£5.00
	(b) As above. Selection of 57 different 4d Adson — another out-of-the-ordinary reconstruction in the making	£135.00
240	6d. Three different advert colours ..	£17.50
241	8d. Horizontal pair (unused, no gum), positions 188/189 from Bottom-Right pane	£30.00
242(a)	1/-. Three superb advert colours, brown, mauve and red	£22.50
	(b) As above. Perhaps the highlight of this entire listing, a lovely copy with true black advert — far and away the rarest of all the advert colours	£82.50

KING GEORGE VI Continued

As usual all offers are mint, and full annotation is included where necessary.

243	1/- Centre Die 2, Overprinted Official (MO13c). Single stamp, unhinged mint (an elusive stamp, this one)	£16.50
244(a)	1/3d Sideways Wmk., Frame die 1a (M14a). The 3 listed centre shades	£5.00
	(b) As above. Both listed plate blocks of 4 (pl. nos. 2 — 1, 3A — 1)	£11.00
	(c) As above. Plate block of 4, nos. 2 — 1 only	£5.50
	(d) As above. Two marginal blocks of 6, (i) from plate 2 — 1, with R9/3 centre flaw, R10/2 pre-flaw and R10/3 frame re-entry; (ii) from plate 3A — 1, R9/3 without centre flaw of course, R10/2 now with frame flaw, and R10/3 frame re-entry. Lovely pair of blocks	£30.00

(e)	As above. Two matching corner blocks of 6 (both with plate nos. 2 – 1), frame plate R15/3 flaw and re-entry – MFV14a (a and b)	£25.00
(f)	As above. Another corner block of 6 with the R15/3 frame re-entry, this time with plate nos 3A – 1	£13.50
(g)	As above. Marginal block of 4 (from plate 2 – 1) with R15/5 frame retouch and R16/5 centre re-entry	£10.00
(h)	As above. Watermark inverted (M14aZ)	
	(i) Single copy	£3.50
	(ii) Plate block of 4 (pl. nos. 3A – 1)	£22.50
	(iii) 2 copies, fine shades of both frame and centre	£8.50
(i)	As above. MC2q Counter coil pair.	
	(i) Single coil pair	£4.50
	(ii) Complete set of coil pairs, nos. 1 – 19. (Cat. \$ 237.50)	£67.50
	(iii) Coil pair, stamps on different papers	£6.50
245(a)	1/3d Sideways Wmk., Frame die 1b (M14b). The two listed shades, superb contrasts	£2.75
(b)	As above. Inverted watermark variety (M14bZ). Scarce	£13.50
(c)	As above. Marginal copy with large part offset on the back of the blue frame. Attractive	£10.00
(d)	As above. Corner block of 20 with plate nos. 3A – 2, showing R13/5 frame retouch giving the appearance of a die 1a stamp (MFV14b(b)). Seldom seen in a corner block (also includes R15/5 frame retouch)	£27.50
(e)	As above. Block of 4 with the other MFV14b(b) retouch at R11/4. This, and R13/5 offered above, are the only two die 1b stamps retouched to look like die 1a	£12.50
(f)	As above. Marginal block of 4 with R16/6 frame retouch – MFV14b(a) – R15/5 frame retouch also present	£10.00
(g)	As above. Counter coil pair (MC2r)	
	(i) Single coil pair	£4.50
	(ii) Complete set of MC2r coil pairs, nos. 1 – 19. (Cat. \$ 237.50)	£67.50
	(iii) Coil pair, the two stamps with fine centre shades	£6.50
	(iv) Coil pair with R16/6 frame retouch	£6.50
246(a)	1/3d Upright Watermark (M14c). Shades are not listed for this stamp, but here are two fine blue frame contrasts	£4.00
(b)	As above. Plate block of 4, plate no. 4 – 2	£10.00
(c)	As above. Corner block of 24, including plate nos. 4 – 2, with R13/5, 15/5 and 16/6 frame retouches i.e. MFV14b (a and b) on M14c paper. Cat. \$175 ..	£50.00
(d)	As above. Marginal block of 8 including the R13/5, 15/5 and 16/6 varieties mentioned in the previous item	£25.00