

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton



1929 Health Stamps. Strangely there appears to be no record (in the N.Z. Handbooks or elsewhere) of the presence or absence of buffer bars in the top selvages of sheets of this issue. Our illustration (above) of two blocks demonstrates conclusively that sheets must have been printed both without

and with these protective additions to the plate. Another piece examined recently — consisting of the complete top row of a sheet, with full selvages — showed the buffer bars (twelve of them) running to the full width of the printed area of the sheet. The stamps in both pieces with the bars were clearly printed later than those in the block without the bars (as evidenced by the plate wear in the former, which shows, in surface-printing, as an increase in colour, and a filling in of the finer lines of the design). This confirms, as one would expect, that the bars were added to the plate at some stage after the printing was under way.

My researching of this note brought to light some further information on this issue which is not generally known. The late F.H. Jackson made extensive extracts relating to printing figures from the N.Z. Government Printing Office Records, and these were published in the "New Zealand Stamp Collector" over a period of years commencing in 1970. For the 1929 Healths, Mr. Jackson quoted the following data:

Number of sheets printed:	25,000
Sheets numbered:	Q206540 to Q231539
Number of sheets destroyed:	163½
Number of stamps supplied to the Custodian of Stamps:	3,973,840.

Now we know that the issued sheets were of 80 stamps each, arranged in eight horizontal rows of ten, yet by a process of simple deduction from the above data, it appears that the sheets as printed were not of 80, but of 160 stamps each. That in fact would have been perfectly feasible, for the sheets used were of the same 'Cowan' stock used for the contemporary small-size surface-printed K.G.V definitives, which were of 240 stamps arranged in ten horizontal rows of 24 — i.e. of just about exactly the right size to accommodate two panes of 80 of the larger-size Health stamps side by side. However, for the "160-up" format to be achieved, either (i) each sheet would have to have been run through the printing press **twice**, surely an impracticable possibility, and a recipe for spoilage on a large scale; or (ii) there would have to have been **two** plates of 80 impressions each (or one large plate of two 80-impression panes). Oddly enough, there is **some** evidence in support of the possibility that there were two plates. J.W. Brodie, in a more recent "New Zealand Stamp Collector" article (June 1983), quotes the Government Printer's records as containing an entry stating that on 30th November 1929 "Two plates, Two Penny Charity Stamp — Zinc line block — were designed and made by the Litho Department." However, Mr. Brodie goes on to say that in the Post Office archives there is just **one** plate (in copper), and that there is evidence that the entry in the plate register was made at a later date (and is therefore not necessarily absolutely reliable). In any event, the issued stamps show a number of minor flaws etc., each of which is constant to a specific sheet position, and consistent with one 80-impression plate only having been used.

It is infinitely more likely that the record of 25,000 sheets in the Printing Office Records (that quantity being confirmed by the quoted sheet numbers) referred to **the unprinted sheets as supplied to the Printer**, and that these were subsequently halved vertically prior to printing. Thus the true figure would be 50,000 sheets (of 80 stamps each). It follows incidentally, that only 50% of that total — i.e. only those printed on the right hand portions of the guillotined sheets — would show a sheet serial number. The top-row strip I mentioned earlier neatly confirms this. Its marginal watermark inscriptions clearly show it to be the left half of a larger sheet, and it bears no serial number. This in turn demonstrates one aspect of the care that is necessary if relying on sheet serial numbers (of any issue) to prove a point.

Two printings of the 1929 Health stamp were ordered — an initial one, of 2 million, followed by another of the same quantity on 5/12/29. Considering that the total numbers sold, including those when the stamps were re-issued between 5/12/30 and 28/2/31, amounted to less than 600,000, it is obvious that the authorities anticipated very much greater demand than proved to be the case.

How much is a certificate worth? The cautionary tale which follows is absolutely true in every respect. It is recounted here solely as a service and a **general** warning to readers (hence no names are mentioned).

A very well-known firm of dealers recently advertised for sale (at full S.G. catalogue price or several hundred pounds) a rare N.Z. variety. We asked to see it with a view to purchase, and it duly arrived, covered by a recent (late 1988) certificate issued by one of the recognised authorities, stating it to be genuine. However, we at once recognised the item as a forgery, and returned it, giving our reason for doing so (both verbally and in writing). At the same time, we notified the certificate issuing authority of the relevant details. Some time later, we learned quite by chance from one of our clients that he too had responded to the advertisement, and the item had been submitted to him by the sellers, without adverse comment, **after** we had rejected it. Fortunately he too was alert to its true status (thanks, he added, to the C.P. Catalogue!), and he also rejected it. We understand the certificate has been recalled by the issuing authority for review.

Several points arise from the above. Firstly, it is normal for **all** certificates, whether favourable or adverse, to be qualified by the proviso that statements made on the certificate are of opinion only. Secondly, the nature of many items submitted for certification is such that opinions given by experts are no more than that — opinions, and experts can and sometimes do, of course, disagree. Thirdly, in this particular case, the question of forgery or genuine is not one of opinion, but of indisputable and incontrovertible **fact**. Fourthly, the pertinent facts required to resolve the matter are fully documented in the C.P. Catalogue. And finally, we know that both parties concerned (the certifying authority and the sellers) maintain up-to-date copies of the C.P. Catalogue.

So we return to our original question: How much is a certificate worth?

EARLIER N.Z. HEALTH OFFERS

- | | | |
|---------------|---|----------------|
| 501(a) | 1929 Nurse ("Help Stamp Out Tuberculosis"). Unhinged mint copy, superb .. | £16.50 |
| (b) | As above. Block of 4, superb unhinged mint | £65.00 |
| (c) | As above. Lightly hinged single, very fine | £8.50 |
| (d) | As above. Not-so-lightly hinged copy, facially superb | £5.00 |
| (e) | As above. The pair of proving blocks illustrated on the front of this Bulletin, without and with buffer bars in the top selvage. The "without bars" block superb unhinged, the "with bars" not quite so fine, and with two stamps hinged | £125.00 |
| (f) | As above. Single copy, superfine (c.d.s.) used | £16.50 |
| (g) | As above. Fine commercially used example | £8.00 |
| 502(a) | 1930 Nurse ("Help Promote Health"). Unhinged mint copy, superfine | £30.00 |
| (b) | As above, but perfect unhinged mint block of 4 | £125.00 |
| (c) | As above. Very fine lightly hinged single copy | £14.00 |

(d)	As above. Superb used copy (and we really mean superb)	£26.50
(e)	As above, but very fine commercially used	£15.00
(f)	As above. A brilliant used block of 4 with central Christchurch registered c.d.s. clearly dated 29 OC 30, the first day of issue	£125.00
503(a)	1931'Smiling Boys' (T3a/b). Finest used set of two, both with c.d.s. cancels	£135.00
(b)	As above. Another set, small faults, but good spacefillers	£17.50
504(a)	1932 Hygeia (T4a). Superfine unhinged mint copy	£24.50
(b)	As above, but lightly hinged, and very fine	£12.50
(c)	As above. Corner block of 4, hinged in selvedge only	£100.00
(d)	As above. Another corner block, markedly differing in shade from the previous item. Single very light hinge — superb	£75.00
(e)	As above. Completing a superb series of mint blocks, a third corner block, this one in a remarkably pale shade, from the later state of plate 1, with all four stamps showing heavy retouching, especially to the shading of the left hand face of the pedestal. Finest mint (2 L.H., 2 U.M.)	£160.00
(f)	As above. Finest used copy, c.d.s. cancel	£14.50
(g)	As above. Commercially used example, fine	£8.00
(h)	As above. Superfine used block of 4 in the pink-carmine shade. Plated to R1-2/7-8 from plate 1	£62.50
505(a)	1933 Pathway (T5a). Superb unhinged mint copy	£14.50
(b)	As above, but fine lightly hinged	£7.50
(c)	As above. Marginal block of 4, mint unhinged and superfine	£60.00
(d)	As above. Marginal block of 6, including the prominent "Flaws in Clouds" on R2/1 and 3/3 (these were later retouched). R2/1 also shows the constant 'LT' retouch. Finest mint (2 H.M., 4 U.M.)	£92.50
(e)	As above. R2/1 single, with the 'LT' retouch but with the Clouds Flaw now retouched. Mint unhinged	£20.00
(f)	As above. Finest used copy (c.d.s.)	£10.00
(g)	As above. Commercially used, fine	£5.50
(h)	As above. Superb used pair, right hand stamp being the flaw state of R3/3 .	£30.00
(i)	As above. Block of 4 with top right corner selvedge, brilliant used, with central Wellington Registered c.d.s. of the first day of issue (8 NO 33)	£50.00

506(a)	1934 Crusader (T6a). Unhinged mint copy, Superb	£14.50
(b)	As above, but lightly hinged and very fine	£7.50
(c)	As above. Unhinged mint block of 4, also superb	£60.00
(d)	As above. Corner block of 4, upper stamps with virtually complete letters wmk. Stamps unhinged mint	£65.00
(e)	As above. Plate block of 4, lightest of hingeing one stamp only. The first 'Heaths' plate block, and very scarce	£95.00
(f)	As above. Finest used copy (c.d.s.)	£10.00
(g)	As above, but fine commercially used	£5.00
(h)	As above. Strip of five, with full corner selvage, finest used. Unusual multiple!	£57.50
(i)	As above. Block of 4, superb used, central c.d.s.	£50.00
(j)	As above. Lovely used copy (c.d.s. 8 NO 34), with variety Watermark Inverted (T6aZ) — very scarce indeed!	£42.50

OFFICIAL STAMPS, USED MULTIPLES

The concluding part of this listing.

507(a)	Second Pictorial 8d. Fine used block of 4, perf. 12½ (LO10d)	£15.00
(b)	As above. Another fine used block, this one on coarse paper, perf. 14 x 14½ (LO10e)	£15.00
(c)	As above. Superb used top marginal block (LO10e), with complete 15-dot Waterlow shift marking in the selvage. Rare thus	£40.00
508(a)	Second Pictorial 9d. Very fine commercially used strip of three with the Official overprint in green (LO11c). Used multiples (of any size) of this issue are scarce	£50.00
(b)	As above. Superb used block of 4 of the redrawn (smaller design) 9d, with the overprint in black (LO11e). Also scarce in used multiple	£82.50
509	Second Pictorial 2/-. Fine commercially used vertical strip of 4, on the perf. 12½ coarse paper issue (LO13f), the bottom stamp showing the good R9/7 re-entry	£22.50
510	K.G. VI ½d. Fine used blocks of 4 in green (MO1a) and chestnut (MO1b). The two blocks	£3.25
511	K.G. VI 1d Green. A fine used pair of the scarce final issue on coarse paper with horizontal mesh (MO2e)	£10.00

512	K.G.VI 1½d Chocolate (MO4a). Superb used pair	£20.00
513	K.G. VI 9d. Fine used block of 4 on fine paper (MO12a)	£12.50
514	Q.E. Officials. A fine run of seven used blocks (1½d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 9d, 1/-, 6d on 1½d), all on the original coarse paper. An excellent start for anyone wishing to take up the challenge of completing the set	£20.00
515	Q.E. 1/-. A magnificent used block of 12 (6 x 2) on the original paper, beautifully cancelled by three strikes of the neat Molesworth "coin" c.d.s. of 15 JA 57	£5.00
516	1940 Centennial Officials:	
	(a) ½d in superb used block of 4	£7.00
	(b) 1½d ditto	£8.50
	(c) 2½d ditto	£10.00
	(d) 3d ditto	£3.50
	(e) 6d ditto	£11.75
	(f) 8d in fine commercially used block of 4	£17.50
	(g) 9d in superb used block of 4	£20.00

1967 PICTORIALS, CONCLUDED

518	6c Koromiko (OD8a). Both imprint/plate blocks of 12, plates 1A and 1B ...	£17.50
519(a)	7c Rata (OD9a). Both plate (1A and 1B) blocks, together with an imprint. Three blocks (18 stamps)	£15.00
	(b) As above. Two variety blocks, showing plate 1B, R9/1 retouch (ODV9e) and R10/3, also R16/5 variety. 16 stamps	£12.00
520	8c N.Z. Flag (OD10a). Imprint/plate (1A) block of 8	£5.00
521	10c Timber (OD11a). Imprint/plate (1A) block of 8	£5.00
522	15c Tiki, Original Colours (OD12a). Imprint/plate block of 12, one of the scarcer plates of this issue	£18.50
523	15c Tiki, Multicolour (OD12b). Imprint/plate in block of 8	£5.00
524	20c Maori Rock Drawing (OD13a). Imprint/plate block of 10	£10.00
525(a)	25c Butter Making (OD14a). Imprint/plate block of 6	£12.50
	(b) As above. Marginal block of 6 with R8/6 flaw (ODV14a)	£12.50
526(a)	30c Tongariro (OD15a). Two imprint/plate (1A) blocks of 6, Gum Arabic and PVA Gum respectively	£55.00
	(b) As above. Another imprint/plate (1A) block of 6 of the short-lived issue on no wmk. paper (OD15b). Cat. \$ 210	£72.50
527	50c Sutherland Falls (OD16a). Imprint/plate block (Gum Arabic) of 10 stamps, hinged only once in selvage	£22.50

528(a)	\$ 1 Tasman Glacier (OD17a). Imprint/plate block of 6, Gum Arabic. Cat. \$ 280 and offered at	£82.50
(b)	As above. Similar imprint/plate block, but with PVA Gum	£82.50
529	\$ 2 Geyser, Magenta (OD18a). Imprint/plate block of 10. Cat. \$ 600 and excellent buying at	£187.50

530	\$ 2 Geyser, Multicolour (OD18b). Imprint/plate block of 10 — the key value in this whole series. Cat. \$ 1500	£400.00
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531	Trade Promotion Designs, etc.	
(a)	7c Fishing (OD20a). Both imprint/plate blocks of 6 (pl. 1 and 1a)	£10.00
(b)	8c Fruit (OD21a), same format as the 7c	£10.00
(c)	10c Timber (OD22a). Imprint/plate block of 6	£2.50
(d)	18c Wool (OD23a). Both imprint/plate blocks of 6 (pl. 1 and 1a)	£18.50
(e)	20c Meat (OD24a), same format as the 18c (2 blocks)	£15.00
(f)	25c Dairy (OD25a). Imprint/plate block of 6	£17.50
(g)	7½c Trout (Sideways wmk. — OD26a). Plate and imprint blocks of 6	£12.50
(h)	As above. (Upright wmk. — OD26b) — same format (2 blocks)	£12.50
(i)	28c Fox Glacier (OD27a). Imprint/plate block of 10	£12.50

RECENT ISSUES

1989 N.Z. Authors, 40c, 60c, 70c, 80c — issued 1/3/89.

Mint set of four stamps	£1.65
Complete set of 4 plate blocks (six stamps per block)	£11.50
Official Illustrated F.D.C. (Wanganui pmk.)	£1.85

40c Blue Duck, cream paper (PC7b). Just before this stamp was withdrawn from sale, it was reprinted with 4-kiwi symbols (a "life" of approx 1 month). Supplies have proved difficult to obtain, and it is now impossible to replenish our already small stock.

(1)	Set of two imprint blocks (6 stamps each block) with 4-kiwi symbols, left selvage perforated and not perforated	£20.00
(2)	Se-tenant pair of \$ 4 Wellington by Night Booklets, showing part printers imprint and all 4-kiwi symbols. Perhaps even scarcer than the normal large-sheet imprints	£21.50

1988 Christmas Booklets. Somewhat unexpectedly this Commemorative booklet has turned up with stamps attached by bottom selvage (originally it was only recorded with "top selvage"). We can now offer this complete listing:—

(a)	attached by plain top selvage	£3.10
(b)	Do. with sheet value marking in selvage	£3.10
(c)	attached by plain bottom selvage	£3.10
(d)	Do. se-tenant pair of booklets with complete printers imprint in the selvage	£6.50

Pictorial Aerogrammes. Set of 8 different, featuring colourful illustrations of the attractions of New Zealand — see them and you will understand the charm of the country to so many people! An attractive set (post paid) £3.50

Pictorial Postal Stationery Envelopes. Two 'flower' envelopes (162mm x 114mm featuring the Kahikatea, 225mm x 114mm featuring the Kowhai), each imprinted 40c. (post paid) £1.25

1935 — 47 PICTORIALS — A BASIC LISTING

C.P.	S.G.	u.m.	m.m.	used	C.P.	S.G.	u.m.	m.m.	used
L1a	556	40p	25p	5p	L8e	584a	£16	—	£2.50
L1b	577	14p	8p	5p	L8f	584b	£2	£1.25	50p
L2a	557	25p	12p	5p	L9a	564	£7.50	£3	£1.25
L2b	557a	£45	£25	—	L9b	585	£10	£4	15p
L2c	557b	£10	—	90p	L9c	585a	£2	£1.25	—
L2d	578	30p	15p	5p	L9d	585b	£14.50	—	50p
L3a	558	£7.25	£4	£4	L9e	585b	£1.50	90p	10p
L3b	558a	£6.25	£4	£2	L10a	565	£6.50	£3	£1
L3c	—	£20	—	—	L10b	586	£6.50	—	£2
L3d	579	£2	£1.25	£1.75	L10c	586aa	£2	£1.25	£1
L4a	559	£2	£1	60p	L10d	586a	£1.50	90p	90p
L4b	580	15p	8p	5p	L10e	586b	£1.25	75p	25p
L4c	580c	£2.50	£1.50	—	L11a	566	£15	£9	£5
L4d	580d	£6	£3	—	L11b	587	—	£9	£2
L4e	580a	90p	50p	40p	L11c	587a	£15	£9	£1
L4f	580	15p	8p	5p	L11d	630	£50	£25	—
L5a	560	£7.25	£4	£8.75	L11e	631	£1.50	£1	30p
L5b	560a	£6.25	£3	£8.75	L12a	567	£20	£10	£4
L5c	581	£6.25	—	£8.75	L12b	588	£5	£2.25	20p
L5d	581a	£3	£2	£4.25	L12c	588a	£18	—	—
L5e	581a	£3	—	£4.25	L12d	588	£2	£1	5p
L5f	581b	50p	40p	60p	L13a	568	£30	£12.50	—
L5g	581b	£1.75	—	—	L13c	589	—	—	90p
L6a	561	£20	£10	30p	L13d	589b	—	—	£1
L6b	582	£20	£10	30p	L13e	589c	—	—	£2
L7a	562	£4.25	£2.25	40p	L13f	589c	£12.50	£6.50	£2
L7b	583	90p	55p	25p	L13g	589d	£6	£3	25p
L7c	583b	£50	£25	—	L14a	569	£50	£20	£30
L7d	583a	£11.50	—	—	L14b	569a	£50	£20	£30
L7e	583c	50p	30p	5p	L14d	590	£17.50	—	£5
L8a	563	£30	£12.50	£12.50	L14e	590a	—	£20	—
L8b	563a	£30	—	£12.50	L14f	590b	£16	—	£5
L8c	584	£10	£5	65p	L14g	590b	£6	£4	£2.50
L8d	584a	£20	—	£3.50					

(a more specialised list of offers follows next month)