

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



PUBLISHED BY CAMPBELL PATERSON LTD.
P.O.BOX 17, WOKING, SURREY GU22 7BL
ISSUED MONTHLY ☎ WOKING (04862) 5887

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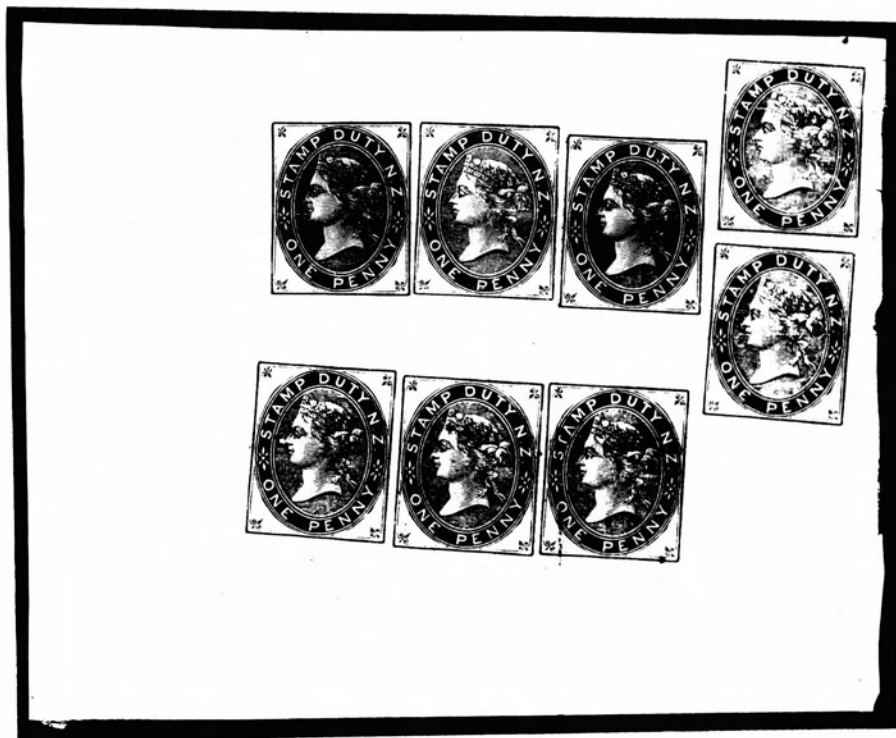
VOLUME XXVI

NUMBER 11

JUNE 1989

N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton



The item illustrated above is a total mystery. Extensive inquiries have revealed no record of it, or anything resembling it.

My information is that it was amongst an accumulation of general surplus material purchased by the finder from a retiring dealer's stock (neither party having a particular interest in N.Z.).

First, a few facts, as established by examination:

- (i) The design is clearly that of the small 1d Duty stamp first issued in 1878.
- (ii) The vertical pair of impressions on the right is printed in lilac, and the two horizontal groups of three to the left are in brown and green respectively.
- (iii) All eight impressions show minor but identical characteristics which are not constant on the issued stamps.
- (iv) The paper on which they are printed has the 7mm NZ and Star watermark, and vertical mesh. Paper of this type was not available in New Zealand until late 1887 – early 1888.
- (v) The item as illustrated is exactly as originally shown to me. I subsequently learned, however, that the finder had cut it from a larger piece of paper because, he said, “there was nothing on the rest of it”. By great good fortune, he had not disposed of the “waste” piece, and sent it along for examination, too. It transpired that the ‘interesting bit’ he had removed was the bottom left corner of a complete sheet of the 7mm wmk. paper! And the “nothing on the rest of it” included a sheet serial number (389002) printed in black in the bottom right corner (the same style of number as is to be found on issued sheets of stamps of the period); a violet impression of the official oval rubber stamp of the Agent General for New Zealand’s office in London, with signature below (Agent General was, until 1905, the title of the senior official now known as the High Commissioner); and various manuscript markings, the most notable of which appeared in the top left corner, and read “Sample B/23 $\frac{1}{8} \times 11\frac{7}{8}$, 500 shts/~~42~~-10th (*sic*) when trimmed”.

Now the surmise, based on these facts. Point (iii) above suggests that these impressions are **not** prints from the **die**. If they were, the issued stamps would all show the same characteristics. (In any case, it is difficult to conceive that die prints could be placed so close together). And they are obviously not prints from the **plate**. The most likely explanation is that they are prints from individual electros, all of which had been cast from the same mould – possibly from a stock of spares made at the same time as the plate in 1878, and held in reserve.

Points (i) and (iv) suggest that these are not “proofs” at all, in the usual sense of the term at least. As Dr. K.J. McNaught has observed, why would proofs or colour trials of the 1d Duty stamp be required some ten years after the stamp was issued?

I suggest that the sheet of paper was one of two or more (no doubt sheet no. 389001 was ‘Sample A’) submitted to New Zealand through or by the Agent General as samples of the new paper, and that it was subsequently passed to the N.Z. Government Printer, who used it as a working test-piece, in conjunction with the aforementioned spare 1d Duty electros, in order to gauge its suitability for electrotype printing in various colours (bearing in mind that this paper was to be used for, *inter alia*, the Second Sideface issues, which were printed from electrotype plates). In other words, what we have is in effect a proof of the **paper**. The 1d Duty impressions are quite incidental – electros of **any** design would have served the purpose equally well. Nonetheless, an extremely unusual, interesting, colourful and attractive piece.

Q.E. Officials. Resolving an unanswered query on the format of sheets, which I posed in the N.Z. Bulletin of October 1984. Both Volume 4 of the N.Z. Handbook and the C.P. Catalogue record these issues as being in sheets of 240, arranged in ten horizontal rows of 24. I have now seen a sheet of the $2\frac{1}{2}$ d on 2d provisional which confirms my hunch that the layout was in fact **12 horizontal rows of 20**. A relatively minor point, perhaps, but interesting in that this configuration doesn’t correspond with sheets of the ordinary Q.E. small-size stamps (produced at the same time by the same printers) which were in 10 rows of 24.

There are five main categories of N.Z. postal stationery - postcards, letter cards, envelopes, registered envelopes, and newspaper wrappers.

We have available a superb and near-complete representative collection (equally superb as a starter collection!) of 24 items, comprised of one of each of these categories **from each of the five reigns**, Q.V. — Q.E. inclusive (lacking only a K.E. VII registered envelope). Some unused, some used, all in fine condition.

Current individual retail approx. £200. The postal stationery collection ... £125.00

A complete set of the seven attractive and colourful labels which were issued at intervals between September 1905 and November 1906 to advertise and publicise the 1906—07 Exhibition. Label no. 1 is imperf. and unnumbered, the others are perforated and numbered 2 — 7. A few faults, but appearance lovely and condition well above average for these

£47.50

We can offer a few individual labels as follows:

(b)	No. 2	£2.50
(c)	Do. Block of 4	£10.00
(d)	No. 3	£3.00
(e)	Do. Block of 4	£12.50
(f)	No. 4	£2.50
(g)	No. 5	£4.00
(h)	No. 7	£2.00

1935—47 SECOND PICTORIALS

A recently purchased collection has greatly added to stock, enabling this listing of **mint** blocks. Unless otherwise specified, all items are in fine condition, many stamps being unhinged.

- 603(a)** ½d Fantail Single Wmk. (L1a, S.G. 556). Two blocks of 4, in the listed shades of green and deep green £2.75
- (b) As above. Plate (1B) corner block of 4 £3.00
- 604(a)** ½d Multiple Wmk. (L1b, S.G. 577). Corner block of 14, including the plate number (small 1B) and R9/7 "pale bird" variety. The latter is seldom seen in truly positional block £15.00
- (b) As above. Marginal block of 4 with inverted wmk. (L1bX) £3.50
- (c) As above. Corner block of 9, also with inverted wmk., including the plate number (1A) and R8/1 clematis flaw, but no flaw on R8/3 (LV1c) £25.00
- 605** 1d Kiwi Single Wmk, perf. 14 x 13½, Die 1 (L2a, S.G. 557). Two superb red shades, each in block of 4 £8.50

606(a)	1d Single Wmk., Die 2 (L2c, S.G. 557b). Booklet pane of 6 stamps, complete with all selvages, and the 'Parisian Ties' adverts. Hinged in selvedge only, upright watermark (W5aZ)	£37.50
(b)	As above. A similarly complete booklet pane, but with inverted wmk. (W5aY). Also hinged in selvedge only	£40.00
607(a)	1d Multiple Wmk., Die 3 (L2d, S.G. 578). Two attractive red shades, blocks of 4	£8.50
(b)	As above. Marginal block of 4 with inverted watermark (L2dZ). Cat. \$ 40 ..	£10.00
608(a)	1½d Maori Cooking. Block of 4 stamps of the original perf. 14 x 13½ issue (L3a, S.G. 558)	£25.00
(b)	As above. Second issue, perf. 13½ x 14. Experimental Wet printing (L3b, S.G. 558a), two marginal blocks of 4 in superb shades. Cat. \$ 120 but stamps rather off-centre, hence	£35.00
(c)	As above. The Inverted and Reversed Watermark issue (L3c), two blocks of 4 in very nice shade contrasts. Stamps are well-centred for this issue. Cat. \$ 480	£175.00
(d)	As above. Final (Multiple Wmk.) issue (L3d, S.G. 579), two blocks of 4 in lovely red-brown shades	£17.50
609(a)	2d Whare. Block of 4 stamps, original (Single Wmk.) issue (L4a, S.G. 559) ..	£7.00
(b)	As above. Two lovely shades in blocks of 4, first Multiple Wmk. issue (L4b, S.G. 580)	£1.50
(c)	As above. 1941 Wartime issue, perf. 14 line (L4c, S.G. 580c), two blocks of 4 in fine shade contrasts (unusual for this issue)	£20.00
(d)	As above. The perf. 14 x 15 Wartime issue (L4d, S.G. 580d) two blocks of 4, again attractive shade contrasts in an issue not noted for shades	£45.00
(e)	As above. The last Wartime "blitz" perforation, perf. 12½ (L4e, S.G. 580a), basic block of 4	£3.00
(f)	As above. Final coarse paper issue (L4f), three blocks of 4, fine shade contrasts	£2.00
610(a)	2½d Mt. Cook/Lilies. Original issue (L5a, S.G. 560), two blocks of 4 showing lovely contrasts of both chocolate (centre) and blue-slate (frame)	£50.00
(b)	As above. The other single wmk. issue, perf. 13½ x 14 (L5b, S.G. 560a). Mint block of 4	£22.50
(c)	As above. Same L5b issue, but corner plate block of 4	£27.50
(d)	As above. Multiple Wmk., perf. 14 line issue (L5d, S.G. 581a), mint block of 4	£12.50

	(e) As above. Coarse Paper issue (L5f, S.G. 581b), corner block of 4 with R1/1 variety (LV5d). Minor faults, but fine appearance	£5.00
611	3d Maori Girl, Single Wmk. (L6a, S.G. 561). Two blocks of 4, in lovely chocolate shades. Cat. \$ 330, offered at	£125.00
612(a)	4d Mitre Peak. Single Wmk. issue (L7a, S.G. 562). Two blocks of 4, in attractive frame shades. Two stamps creased, otherwise fine condition	£20.00
	(b) As above. First Multiple Wmk. issue (L7b, S.G. 583), two blocks of 4 with fine frame contrasts	£12.50
	(c) As above. Perf. 12½ issue (L7d, S.G. 583a), marginal block of 4	£40.00
	(d) As above. The final coarse paper issue (L7e, S.G. 583c), two blocks of 4 in nice frame shades	£4.00
613(a)	5d Swordfish. Original Single Wmk. issue (L8a, S.G. 563), block of 4	£80.00
	(b) As above, but corner plate block of 4	£115.00
	(c) As above. Second Single Wmk. issue, perf. 13½ x 14 (L8b, S.G. 563a), corner plate block of 4	£115.00
	(d) As above. First Multiple Wmk. issue (L8c, S.G. 584), two corner plate blocks of 4, in superb shade contrasts	£90.00
	(e) As above. The same L8c issue, basic block of 4	£37.50
	(f) As above. Final coarse paper issue (L8f, S.G. 584b), two blocks of 4 in fine shade contrasts	£20.00
614(a)	6d Harvesting. Single wmk. issue (L9a, S.G. 564), two blocks of 4, lovely shades	£40.00
	(b) As above. Plate block of 4 showing early signs of the crack which developed around the plate number	£27.50
	(c) As above. First Multiple Wmk. issue (L9b, S.G. 585), two blocks of 4 in stunning scarlet contrasts. Superb	£75.00
	(d) As above. Perf. 12½ issue (L9c, S.G. 585a), two blocks of 4, nice contrasts	£15.00
	(e) As above. Final coarse paper issue (L9e, S.G. 585b), corner plate (3) block of 4	£6.50
615(a)	8d Tuatara. Single wmk. issue (L10a, S.G. 565), block of 4	£18.50
	(b) As above. First multiple wmk. issue (L10b, S.G. 586), basic block of 4	£22.50
	(c) As above. Same issue, corner block of 4 with inverted wmk. (L10bZ). Cat. \$ 140, but stamps off-centre, hence	£22.50

(d)	As above. Upright wmk. issue (L10c, S.G. 586aa), basic block of 4	£10.00
(e)	As above. Perf. 12½ issue (L10d, S.G. 586a), block of 4	£6.50
616(a)	9d Maori Panel. Single wmk. issue (L11a, S.G. 566). Mint block of 4 — unhinged and quite brilliant. Cat. \$ 160 and offered at	£50.00
(b)	As above. Multiple upright wmk. issue (L11c, S.G. 587), block of 4 with variety inverted watermark (L11cZ). Also Cat. \$ 160 and also offered at ..	£50.00
617(a)	1/- Tui. Single wmk. issue (L12a, S.G. 567), block of 4	£80.00
(b)	As above. Corner plate block of 4	£87.50
(c)	As above. Original multiple wmk. issue (L12b, S.G. 588), block of 4	£20.00
(d)	As above. Same L12b issue, two corner plate blocks of 4, one perf'd left to right, the other perf'd right to left. Nice	£42.50
(e)	As above. Perf. 12½ issue (L12c, S.G. 588a), block of 4	£75.00
(f)	As above, but corner plate block of 4	£82.50
(g)	As above. Final coarse paper issue (L12d), marginal block of 4	£9.00
618(a)	2/- Capt. Cook. Original issue (L13a, S.G. 568), block of 4	£92.50
(b)	As above. Perf. 12½, coarse paper, issue (L13f, S.G. 589c), block of 4	£30.00
(c)	As above. Perf. 14¼ x 13½ issue (L13g, S.G. 589d), block of 4	£15.00
(d)	As above, but two corner plate blocks of 4, plate numbers 2 and 3	£75.00
619(a)	3/- Mt. Egmont. Original single wmk. issue (L14a, S.G. 569), block of 4 ...	£150.00
(b)	As above. Experimental wet printing issue (L14b, S.G. 569a), corner plate block of 4	£200.00
(c)	As above. Final coarse paper issue (L14g, S.G. 590b), corner plate block of 4	£30.00
(d)	As above. Two L14g plate blocks, in the listed bistre-brown and yellow-brown shades	£60.00
(e)	As above. Corner block of 6 including the R9/4 re-entry (LV14L)	£40.00

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LONG FISCALS (1)

A superb lot of no less than 376 **all different** (where there is duplication of individual values, they differ in die, detail of design, paper, perf., watermark or shade). Includes First Types Imperf. (51, with values to £9), First Types Perforated (140, with values to £5), and Second Types (185, with values to £100). All appear fiscally used, but condition is **exceptionally** fine for these. A wonderful basis for a specialised collection of these fascinating issues

£850.00

- 627 1st FEB 1952.** Cover carried on the Canadian-Pacific Airlines flight, Auckland to Vancouver, arrived on the 4th, and carries the official N.Z. cachet £12.50
- 628 14th OCT 1952.** T.E.A.L. inaugural flight, Auckland to Apia (Western Samoa). Specially printed air letter form, backstamped on arrival **13th OCT** (due to crossing the international date line). Philatelically inspired, but still attractive .. £12.50
- 629(a) 2nd JUNE 1953.** Coronation Commemorative flight. Complete set of 5 stamps (S59 – 63) on special Coronation cover, backstamped London, and carries the Wellington/Coronation Mail c.d.s. £5.00
- (b) As above.** Two matching Commemorative Qantas covers, both addressed to London, one bears the 1/6d N.Z. stamp (S63a) and Coronation c.d.s., the other is an Australian cover with the 2/- Coronation stamp (S.G. 266) and pmk'd Melbourne £12.50
- 630(a) SEPT/OCT 1953.** London – Christchurch International Air Race. Attractive N.Z. souvenir cover, 1/6d stamp cancelled by the special Air Race c.d.s. of 1st SEP 53. Carried to London by R.N.Z.A.F. Hastings aircraft, then back to N.Z. as freight on the same aircraft as part of the race (in the event, the plane was an 'also-ran', due to engine failure in Ceylon, and did not arrive in N.Z. until 20th October). A colourful cover, complete with all correct pmk's/cachets £12.50
- (b) As above.** A G.B. reply postcard addressed to England, carried in the race aboard an R.A.F. Canberra Mk 7. Rubber-stamped 8 OCT 1953 departure date, it arrived in N.Z. on the 10th, and bears a 15th OCT Christchurch departure date for its return to London. A small unofficial mail only was carried on the R.A.F. entries in the race (one of which won the speed section). A nice card, which we haven't seen before £57.50

RECENT ISSUE

1989 \$ 10 (Little Spotted Kiwi) Bird Definitive. Issued on 19th April (on the same date, the \$ 6, \$ 8 and \$ 10 Arms stamps were withdrawn)

Mint single	£6.75
Imprint block of 4 stamps	£30.00
Sheet Value block of 4 stamps	£30.00
Official Illustrated First Day Cover (Wanganui pmk.)	£6.95

BIRD STAMPS OVERPRINTED SPECIMEN – AN IMPORTANT NOTICE

On 19th April 1989, N.Z. Post placed on sale, at half-face value, a set of six current 'Bird' definitives (\$ 1, \$ 2, \$ 3, \$ 4, \$ 5, \$ 10) overprinted SPECIMEN.

These items are not valid for postage, and as a matter of policy, C.P. Ltd. will neither list this set in the C.P. Catalogue, nor stock it.

Despite our own view, we shall of course endeavour to satisfy the requirements of any customer, but only against specific order.