

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton



We illustrate above an example of one of the most interesting (and at the same time spectacular) of New Zealand proof items. These were listed briefly — and an incomplete strip was illustrated — in "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand", Volume 1, described as die proofs from Waterlow Brothers & Layton's subsidiary die, and the listing was subsequently added to as regards colours and papers in Volume 2. In Volume 4, they were re-listed, now as "proofs in horizontal strips of five with the middle unit inverted", together with some further details based on information gleaned from the very limited quantity of material then available (actually just six strips).

Since then, more material has gradually come to light, and from this it has been possible to piece together part, but by no means all, of their background history. It now appears highly probable that, as part of their preparatory work in producing the 1d Universal Trial Plates W1 and W2, Waterlow Brothers & Layton made an experimental miniature plate of fifteen impressions, arranged as illustrated below.

The annotations A, B, C and D in the diagram refer to four of the five well-known types which are found in the issued Waterlow Trial Plates stamps. Why should they make such a plate, one might ask? Any answer can only be at best conjecture, but possibly it had something to do with testing the

A	A	D	A	A
B	B	C	B	B
C	C	B	C	C

feasibility of using a five-unit transfer roller, such as subsequently **was** used in laying down plates W1 and W2. In that case, one might go on to ask, why a plate of three horizontal rows only, not five, and why lay down the central column inverted in relation to the others? I can guess at no persuasive nor sensible answer to either of these questions. However, with the single exception of one block of 4 (plated to the position indicated by the thicker outline in the diagram), all recorded items are horizontal strips, or part strips, made up of Types A with central impression Type D inverted, or Types B with Type C inverted, or Types C with Type B inverted, so there is certainly no evidence to date

to suggest that the plate was any larger than fifteen impressions. On the contrary, individual pieces have been recorded with the appropriate selvedge at left right or bottom wide enough to preclude the existence of additional impressions on these sides. I'm not aware of any such 'proving piece' from the top row, however, although other evidence (in the form of guide dots) indicates that this was the outermost extent of the impressions in that direction.

As an aside, the late Michael Burberry, who studied these things in considerable depth for many years, once commented to me that he had some evidence to lead him to conclude that the central column of impressions might in fact be the **upright** one, and that the other four columns were therefore all **inverted**. I'm not altogether sure to this day whether Michael's tongue was in or out of his cheek when he suggested this, but I suspect he was absolutely serious — not that, if it were fact, it would help much in unravelling the mystery of this plate!

These intriguing proofs are found in several colours — black, green (shades), and red — and on two quite distinctive papers, one relatively thick, the other very thin. Another interesting aspect is that they exist in two easily identifiable states — (i) pre-retouched and (ii) crudely and extensively retouched (particularly evident in the left hand side of the design in the central, inverted unit). In fact only the black prints on the thick paper do not have this retouching.

4d First Sideface. Subsequent to my report of the discovery of an example with true mixed perforations (June N.Z. Bulletin), Dr. Robin Gwynn has written from New Zealand to confirm that he has another copy, which was originally found by Dr. K.J. McNaught away back in 1947. His too is perf. 12½ all round, but with the (misplaced) row of perf. 10 inside the 12½s at the **base** of the stamp (in mine, the misaligned perf. 10 row was at the top).

Dr. Gwynn also made some interesting observations on the extreme rarity of these particular perf. varieties in this and other values of the First Sideface issue. He states:

"The present tally stands at only:

1d — one unused (the only unused example of any value recorded), and one used.

3d — one used.

4d — now two used.

6d — perhaps six or eight used.

"If anyone knows of any copies of any of these stamps, I would be most interested to have details, including place and date of use where this can be ascertained and if possible, a photocopy."

Any information may be sent to me, and I will pass it on — I would emphasise, however, that the details required are of copies with true mixed perfs., **not** those with irregular compound perfs.

Finally, Dr. Gwynn adds that neither he, nor Dr. McNaught, has ever seen a copy of the 4d with regular compound perf. $10 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ (i.e. $10 \times 12\frac{1}{2} \times 10 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$). This further substantiates the footnote under C4b in the C.P. Catalogue.

1d UNIVERSAL PLATE VARIETIES – MINT BLOCKS

Concluding the major listing commenced last month.

- 901(a) Booklet Plate.** Superfine mint booklet pane of six stamps (no binding selvage), including the R1/2 re-entry. Curiously this variety is not recorded, for although actual doubling is fairly minor and confined to the bottom right corner of the design, it is quite evident to the unaided eye as a much heavier impression than any other in the pane £150.00
- (b) As above.** The R1/3 re-entry (doubling of the scrollwork is at the right, not the left as stated in the C.P. Catalogue), in pane of six (binding selvage present, but trimmed). Condition very fine and fresh mint £150.00
- (c) As above.** The same variety, but in this case the pane in which it appears is (with its waxed paper interleaving sheet) the sole remaining content of an unexploded 1902 1/0½d booklet — the other pane originally present has been torn out. In remarkably fresh condition, the part booklet £275.00
- (d) As above.** R4/8 and 5/8 re-entries, in superfine mint block of 4. Neither of these is recorded, but as in the case of R1/2 (see lot 901(a) above), both are evident to the naked eye as markedly heavier impressions than their neighbours £95.00
- (e) As above.** Superb mint pane of six (no binding selvage), the lowermost pair being the R9/9 and 9/10 re-entries — the latter recorded in the Lee monograph, but not listed in C.P. £150.00
- (f) As above.** Complete pane of six (binding selvage trimmed) including the R9/16 re-entry. Finest mint £150.00
- 902(a) Dot Plate No. 1 (G8a).** Very fine mint block of 4 (early, unworn print), including the R1/4 rosette retouch. This impression also shows retouching of the frame enclosing the value panel, as do two other stamps in the block, R1/5 and R2/5 £17.50
- (b) As above.** Similar block of 4 (deep rich shade), showing rosette retouches on three stamps (R4/8, 4/9 and 5/9). In addition, all four stamps have the value panel frame prominently retouched. Some slight dulling of the gum, but appearance superb £20.00
- (c) As above.** Block of 4 (medium wear, pinkish shade), showing value panel retouches on all four stamps — R7/1, 7/2, 8/1 and 8/2. It is a peculiarity of these Dot Plate retouches that the greater the plate wear, the more evident the retouching tends to be. The block, finest mint £20.00
- (d) As above.** Block of 4 (pronounced plate wear), comprising Rows 4 and 5, Nos. 9 and 10. R4/9 has the top left rosette retouched, and all four stamps

show value panel retouches — R4/10 and 5/10 are the most crudely effected, and the clearest of all of these varieties. Superb mint £22.50

- (e) **As above.** Lovely mint block of 4 (medium wear, delicate shade), all four stamps with value tablet retouches, and in addition the upper right stamp has a prominent but unplated re-entry, with extensive doubling of the design around the value panel £22.50

903(a) Waterlow Trial Plate W1 (G9a). Mint block of 9, bottom left stamp being the R3/4 re-entry. Stamps centred a little to the left, otherwise fine £55.00

- (b) **As above.** Another block of 9, top right stamp showing the prominent "No sky above ship" variety at R7/15 (see N.Z. Bulletin, Feb. 1988). Although stamps are centred high, an attractive and fine mint block £55.00

- (c) **As above.** Superb mint block of four, consisting of Rows 9 and 10, Nos. 17 and 18 — all really major re-entries, with extensive and very clear doubling of the design. A magnificent variety block £90.00

- (d) **As above.** Marginal block of 4 (with side selvage arrow), overprinted Official (G09a), upper pair of stamps being the major R5/23 and 5/24 re-entries. Gum thin on one of the non-variety stamps does not affect superb facial appearance. £30.00

- (e) **As above.** Another 'Official' block of 4, including the R5/22 and 6/22 major re-entries. All four stamps creased, but again facially fine £10.00

- (f) **As above.** Yet another 'Official' block of 4, this one including the major R9/23 and 10/23 re-entries. Condition not-so-fine £10.00

CURRENT DEFINITIVES

A continuation of last month's listing. All stamps are unmounted mint.

A) Minerals, cont.

- 904(a) 3c perf. 14½ x 14 (PB3a) — Original Fine/White paper.** Mint single 5p
- (b) **As above.** Marginal block of 4 20p
- (c) **As above.** Imprint/plate block of 6, plate dots 1: 1: 1: 1: 1, bottom selvage not perforated 50p
- (d) **As above.** As (c) but dots 1: 1: 1: 1: 2 50p
- (e) **As above.** As (c) but dots 1: 1: 1: 1: 3, bottom selvage perforated or not perforated, each 50p
- (f) **As above.** Sheet value block of 4 25p

905(a)	3c (PB3a) — Later Coarse/Cream paper. Mint single	3p
(b)	As above. Imprint block of 6 with 4-kiwi reprint marking	20p
906(a)	4c Perf. 14¼ x 14 (PB4a). Mint single	4p
(b)	As above. Marginal block of 4	15p
(c)	As above. Imprint/plate block of 6, plate dots 1: 1: 1: 1: 1, bottom selvage perforated or not perforated, each	60p
(d)	As above. As (c) but dots 1: 1: 1: 1: 2, bottom selvage not perforated, only ..	60p
(e)	As above. As (c) but dots 1: 1: 1: 1: 3, each	30p
(f)	As above. Sheet value block of 4	20p
907(a)	5c Perf. 14¼ x 14 (PB5a) — Original Fine/White paper. Mint single	5p
(b)	As above. Marginal block of 4	20p
(c)	As above. Imprint/plate block of 6, plate dots 1: 1: 1: 1: 1, bottom selvage not perforated	60p
(d)	As above. Imprint block of 6 with 1-kiwi reprint, bottom selvage perforated or not perforated, each	60p
(e)	As above. As (d) but 2-kiwi marking, each	60p
(f)	As above. Sheet value block of 4	25p
908(a)	5c (PB5a) — Later Coarse/Cream paper. Mint single	4p
(b)	As above. Imprint block of 6 with 3-kiwi marking	60p
(c)	As above. As (b) but 4-kiwi marking	60p
(d)	As above. As (b) but 5-kiwi marking	30p
909(a)	9c Perf. 14¼ x 14 (PB6a). Mint single	7p
(b)	As above. Marginal block of 4	28p
(c)	As above. Imprint/plate block of 6, plate dots 1: 1: 1: 1: 1, bottom selvage perforated or not perforated, used	£1.10
(d)	As above. As (c) but dots 1: 1: 1: 1: 2, bottom selvage not perforated only ..	£1.10
(e)	As above. As (c) but dots 1: 1: 1: 1: 3, each	55p
(f)	As above. Sheet value block of 4	35p

B) Fruits. (We understand all of these are to be withdrawn in December.)

910(a) 10c Grapes (PB7a) — Original Fine/White paper.	Mint single	10p
(b) As above.	Block of 4	40p
(c) As above.	Imprint block of 6, original printing, bottom selvedge perforated or not perforated, each	75p
(d) As above.	Imprint block of 6 with 1-kiwi reprint marking, bottom selvedge perforated or not perforated, each	75p
(e) As above.	Sheet value block of 4	50p
911(a) 10c (PB7a) — Later Coarse/Cream paper.	Mint single	8p
(b) As above.	Imprint block of 6 with 2-kiwi reprint marking (this printing has only been recorded with bottom selvedge perforated)	60p
912(a) 20c Citrus Fruit (PB8a) — Original Fine/White paper.	Mint single	20p
(b) As above.	Block of 4	80p
(c) As above.	Imprint block of 6, original printing, bottom selvedge perforated or not perforated, each	£1.50
(d) As above.	Sheet value block of 4	£1.00
913(a) 20c (PB8a) — Later Coarse/Cream paper.	Mint single	16p
(b) As above.	Imprint block of 6 with 1-kiwi reprint marking, bottom selvedge perforated or not perforated, each	£1.00
914(a) 30c Nectarines (PB9a).	Mint single	25p
(b) As above.	Block of four	£1.00
(c) As above.	Imprint block of 6, original printing, bottom selvedge perforated or not perforated, each	£2.00
(d) As above.	Imprint block of 6 with 1-kiwi reprint marking, bottom selvedge perforated or not perforated, each	£1.75
(e) As above.	Sheet value block of 4	£1.25
915(a) 40c Apples (PB10a) — Original Fine/White paper.	Mint single	45p
(b) As above.	Block of 4	£1.75
(c) As above.	Imprint block of 6, original printing, bottom selvedge perforated or not perforated, each	£3.00

(d) As above. Imprint block of 6 with 1-kiwi reprint marking, bottom selvage perforated or not perforated, each	£3.00
(e) As above. Sheet value block of 4	£2.00
916(a) 40c (PB10a) — Later Coarse/Cream paper. Mint single	32p
(b) As above. Imprint block of 6 with 2-kiwi reprint marking, bottom selvage perforated or not perforated, each	£3.75

NEW ZEALAND AIR COVERS

A start here on the complex and interesting field of External Flights. All references are to "The Airmails of New Zealand, Volume 2, The Overseas Flights 1928-1940" by D.A. Walker (a quite superb reference book, incidentally). All of these early covers offered show a fine range of KGV or airmail stamps.

919 1 JULY 1930. N.Z. cover addressed to Perth, carried by Western Australian Airways Ltd. (Handbook pages 23/24). One of only five copies known, thus extremely scarce	£77.50
920(a) 1 JULY 1930. N.Z. cover addressed to England, carried on the Adelaide — Perth and Karachi — London routes (Western Australian Airways and Imperial Airways). A maximum of 10 carried on this "first day" of the service (Handbook pages 25/26). Once again extremely scarce	£77.50
(b) As above. Another N.Z. cover posted on this service, date 26 JULY 1930. It is interesting to note that for the first year of this "dual-service" only 152 articles were carried that originated from N.Z.	£45.00
921 1 JULY 1930. N.Z. cover addressed to Brisbane, carried on the Australian National Airways Sydney — Brisbane route. Posted at Wellington, only ten covers being carried (Handbook page 29)	£77.50
922(a) 1 JULY 1930. N.Z. cover addressed to U.K. on the Karachi — London Imperial Airways Service, arrival in the U.K. on 12 August (Handbook pages 32/33) ..	£32.50
(b) As above. N.Z. registered cover from Timaru, addressed to Czechoslovakia, carried on the Karachi — London Service. Arrived on 12 Aug, not claimed by 10 Sept., so returned to N.Z. (passing through Sydney on 27 Oct.). A lovely cover	£40.00
923(a) 1 JULY 1930. N.Z. cover addressed to U.S.A., carried by U.S. Airmail Services (Handbook pages 34/36), with the FERRY STATION cachet applied in the U.S.A. Only 48 articles known to have been carried covering all destinations ..	£45.00
(b) As above. N.Z. cover addressed to U.K., also carried on these U.S.A. and Canadian Air Service Flights. Arrived in U.K. mid-August	£37.50
924 29 JULY 1930. Canadian Air Services/U.S.A. Air Services "All-up route" (Handbook pages 37-41). Two 1931 N.Z. covers available:—	
(i) Addressed to Mexico City	£25.00
(ii) Addressed to England, with an impression of the purple air transit termination double-bar cachet	£30.00

925(a)	4 APRIL 1931. Registered cover from U.K. to Hastings N.Z. carried on the first experimental England — Australia Service (Handbook pages 58—61), backstamped Hastings 5 MAY	£20.00
(b)	As above. Not New Zealand this one, but a U.K. (registered) cover carried on this flight to Australia (arrived Sydney 29 APL)	£17.50
926(a)	17 APL 1931. N.Z. cover to the U.K., carried on the Australian National Airways/Quantas/Imperial Airways famous flight (the pilot for the Darwin—Singapore leg was Charles Kingsford-Smith). The cover comes complete with a strike of the special Commonwealth of Australia cachet (Handbook pages 63—66)	£20.00
(b)	As above. This N.Z. — U.K. cover is similar to the last lot, but the postage has been pre-paid by early meter marks	£20.00
(c)	As above. A third N.Z. — U.K. cover, complete with cachet, and this one signed by Kingsford-Smith. Superb	£40.00
927(a)	NOV. 1931. First N.Z. mail franked with Air Mail stamps for despatch overseas. Cover to U.K. with the special "Christmas Air Mail First Official Flight" cachet, and bearing copies of the 1931 Air stamps (Handbook pages 95—105)	£20.00
(b)	As above. A copy of the special "Air Mail Society of N.Z." cover (illustrated on page 103 of the Handbook), with cachet, addressed to England	£27.50
(c)	As above. Another N.Z. — U.K. cover, this one signed by pilots Kingsford-Smith and Allan	£40.00
(d)	As above. Another N.Z. — U.K. cover, this one erroneously posted on 9 NOV. 1931 at Highfield (Handbook page 95) — the "official" day of issue for the Air Mail stamps was 10 NOV. We have only ever seen four of five examples of this error previously	£40.00
(e)	As above. Similar cover, with adhesives including Air Mail, 4d x 2 and 7d, this one postmarked at Palmerston North on the official first day of issue of the air stamps (10th NOV.)	£27.50
(f)	As above. Cover addressed to India (from Wellington) carried on these flights, and signed by pilot M.C. McGregor who piloted the Wellington — Auckland stage. Condition somewhat tatty, hence	£22.50
(g)	As above. Last but by no means least, a cover (from Christchurch) to Western Australia carried on the Adelaide — Perth leg. The cover includes a strike of the unofficial circular cachet "N.Z. to Western Australia" (Handbook pages 95/96). Only the second example of this cachet we have noted	£65.00
928(a)	30 JUNE 1932. N.Z. cover addressed to Persia, this being the first N.Z. mail accepted for the Middle-East as part of the Karachi — London service (Handbook pages 120—122). Only 48 carried	£35.00
(b)	As above. N.Z. cover to Egypt on the same flights. Only 50 carried	£35.00