

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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*From all of us
to
All of you, world wide,
A Happy Christmas
and a
Prosperous, Peaceful,
and Philatelically Rewarding
Year Ahead*

N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

Recent Revelations. The latest "N.Z. Post Bulletin" (Sept. 1988) listed a number of N.Z. stamps scheduled for withdrawal from sale. First in line were the definitive 10c – 50c Fruits (5), 15c – 60c Maori Heads (5), and the 30c, 40c, 45c and 60c Birds. The withdrawal date for all of these was **1st November, 1988**. As this information was not made available to us until after Nov. 1st, there was no opportunity to replenish stocks. The message is therefore clear – collections should be completed now, before current stocks are exhausted (see August, September, October and November C.P. Bulletin listings).

On 18th April 1989, the remaining Arms values (\$6, \$8, and \$10) are also to be withdrawn. The final curtain on 58 years of the Arms design?

On 2nd November, 1988, a further range of eight Bird stamps was issued. These (in denominations of 10c, 20c, 30c, 40c, 50c, 60c, 80c and 90c) are all in the new smaller size, matching the 70c released earlier this year. On the same date, yet another new \$4 booklet – the fourth distinctive version of this value to appear, this one no doubt containing a pane of the new 40c Brown Kiwi stamp – was also released. Our earlier comment on stamp stocks applies equally to recent booklets. Over the past eighteen months or so, in particular, the unannounced appearance (and disappearance!) of booklets has bordered on the bewildering. (See listings elsewhere in this issue of our Bulletin).

Taken together, all of these changes seem to suggest that N.Z. Post is intent on removing from the current scene all stamps which were in existence prior to that organisation's coming into being on Vesting Day (1st April 1987). Whether that is either wise or desirable is a matter of opinion. In the case of the Bird stamps mentioned above, our own view is that those which are in the process of being eliminated are of superior design and appearance to those which are replacing them!

The New \$1 Kiwi (issued 19/10/88). Whatever one may think of the circular format – and I must admit to my own personal reservations about the rather gimmicky nature of this – it cannot be denied that this stamp is quite beautifully produced. It's a joy to behold the return of recess-printing to N.Z. stamps, after a lapse of 25 years, even if, as seems likely, we have to regard this as a one-off venture. The Canadian engraver (G.T. Prosser) and platemakers (BA Banknote), and the Australian printers (Leigh, Mardon) are all to be congratulated on superb workmanship. All the more laudable, incidentally, since this is Leigh, Mardon's first intaglio-printed stamp.

Printed in deep green (and with perforations so complex I won't attempt to describe them here!), the stamps are available only in \$6 booklets, each containing one horizontal pane of six, arranged in a single row. We have as yet no details of the composition of the printing plate. However, it can already be said with some certainty that philatelists may look forward to a field day in studying this stamp. For example, although we have not yet found any evidence of re-entry or retouching, we have seen enough to indicate that individual booklets will be plate-able.

One curiosity we have noted thus far. Unit no. 4 in booklets from one of the sheet positions (provable by reference to a number of small but constant plating characteristics) shows a small but perfectly clear flaw **printed in blue!** To make matters even more mysterious, this extraneous mark has been seen in two different, but closely adjacent, positions (we have noted 28 examples of one, five of the other, and none of this particular booklet **without** a blue flaw). Can anyone even begin to explain how a colour unconnected with the printing can turn up apparently with the same constancy?

1d Universal London Print. Earlier this year (February Bulletin) I discussed the possibility that sheets of this issue were serially numbered in several separate batches, suggesting a maximum number of 500 in any one series. This was based on the strange fact that, although well in excess of 8000 sheets were printed from the London plate, I could not recall having seen a sheet number higher than four-hundred-and-something.

Response to my note was quite considerable (blocks of the London 1d Universal showing the sheet serial number were preserved in quantities larger than might be expected, since that corner of the sheet — the top right — happens to include a couple of good re-entries), and the batches-of-500 theory became more of a probability, for the highest sheet serial number reported to me was 460. But there remained one rather important uncertainty. All of the numbers reported, and recorded, were different; there was no duplication of any one number.

However, theory has now become a virtual certainty. Browsing through a 1966 auction catalogue the other day, I noted one lot described as follows:

“1901 (Jan.) Waterlow 1d carmine, a mint corner block (3 x 2) from sheet No ‘1’ (marked in corner margin). From this sheet stamps were distributed as specimens to countries within the Postal Union. The block is very much foxed; a unique piece”

By a simple process of elimination, this must have been a ‘London’ block (‘Waterlow’ referring to the printer rather than the paper — the date confirms this, and in addition items on the Waterlow paper in the same sale were referred to as ‘Pirie’, the alternative and more accurate description). That being so, we had the missing link, for I myself have handled an example of sheet serial no. 1, and it certainly was not the same one as offered in the 1966 sale.

As a postscript to the auction catalogue description, I have no means of knowing whether the bit about specimens being distributed to the U.P.U. from that particular sheet is actually true or not. In the light of what we now know, however, I suspect it was merely someone’s rather fanciful idea, just as was the description of the piece as unique! (The block sold, incidentally, for £6.50 which, especially in view of its stated condition, was quite a hefty price at the time — the stamps were then probably listed at about 1/- apiece.)

N.Z. PLATE PROOFS

All items offered are imperf. and unwatermarked (unless otherwise stated) and in fine condition.

1201(a) Full-Face Queen. Hausburg reprint of 1906, from 2d plate 2. Single copy, printed in black on thin card	£2.00
(b) As above, but block of 4	£7.50
(c) As above, but complete sheet of 240, showing damaged areas of the plate and all major retouches	£95.00
1202 Second Sidefaces. Set of 7 (1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d Die 1, 6d Die 2, 8d, 1/-) printed in black on thick cream-toned paper	£25.00
1203(a) First Pictorials. 1d Terraces, horizontal pair printed in deep lake on thick cream-toned paper	£5.00
(b) As above. 2d Pembroke Peak (Local plates), similar pair printed in brown-lake	£5.00

(c) As above.	3d Huia (E9) colour trial in deep indigo blue. Scarce	£17.50
(d) As above.	6d Kiwi (E14), colour trial in deep purple. Scarce	£17.50
(e) As above.	9d Pink-Terrace (E17). Set of three colour trials in carmine lake, pale carmine and purple	£25.00
1204	½d Mt. Cook. Set of three proofs, printed in black, purple-brown and green ..	£17.50
1205(a)	1d Universal Early Local Plates. Proofs by Waterlow and Sons, printed in carmine. Horizontal pair	£15.00
(b) As above.	Similar pair, plated to plate 1, R10/17-18	£17.50
(c) As above.	Similar pair, plated to Plate 3, R9/18-19	£17.50
(d) As above.	Marginal single (huge selvedge, with part marginal arrow), plated to Plate 1, R10/19	£10.00
(e) As above.	Another marginal single, plated to Plate 2, R6/24	£10.00
1206(a)	1d Universal, Reserve Plate. Single copy, printed in jet black on paper with single-lined NZ and Star wmk	£10.00
(b) As above,	but block of 4	£37.50
1207(a)	1d Universal, Waterlow Trial Plates. Single, printed in black from Plate W1 on thin card	£10.00
(b) As above,	but printed in dull blue on thin paper. Slight creasing	£7.50
1208(a)	King Edward VII. ½d block of 4, printed in black on gummed, watermarked paper, and perf. 14 x 15	£17.50
(b) As above.	4d colour trial printed in green on white card. Pretty!	£17.50
(c) As above.	Similar colour trial of the 8d, printed in indigo (the issued colour) ..	£15.00
(d) As above.	Similar 1/- item, printed in bright maroon	£17.50
1209	1d Dominion. Top marginal block of 4, printed in black on gummed wmk'd paper, and perf. 14 x 15, but with the top strike of the comb head grossly misplaced downwards, resulting in the upper pair showing double perms/imperf. at top. Spectacular	£32.50
1210(a)	King George V Recess. 6d pair, printed in black on paper with NZ and Star wmk inverted	£12.50
(b) As above.	Similar 1/- pair (also with wmk inverted)	£12.50
1211(a)	K.G.V Surface Printed. ½d printed in deep dull green on buff "granite" paper ..	£5.00
(b) As above,	but marginal block of 4	£20.00

- (c) **As above.** Set of 5 (½d, 1d Field Marshal, 1½d London, 2d, 3d), all printed in black on various papers/card £17.50

1893 – 94 ADVERTISEMENT STAMPS – SHEET RECONSTRUCTIONS

Some scarce offers of interesting material. As usual, condition is somewhat mixed, but generally well above average. All stamps are used, perf. 10.

- 1212 1d First Setting.** With adverts **inverted** in relation to the stamp designs (or in the case of adverts printed sideways, **reading downwards**). A part reconstruction of 123 copies – just over half-complete. Includes twelve pairs £160.00
- 1213 1d Second Setting.** With adverts **upright** in relation to the stamp designs (or in the case of adverts printed sideways, **reading upwards**). Content of adverts as in the First Setting, with a few block-types redesigned. A near complete effort of 229 copies (11 short of completion). Includes six pairs, and a marginal block of nine £285.00
- 1214 1d Third Setting.** As Second Setting, except that all 'Cadbury' adverts have been replaced by 'Poneke' ads. A **complete** reconstruction of 240, all ads in shades of red/red-brown. Includes three pairs and a block of nine £325.00
- 1215 2d Second Setting.** A partial reconstruction of 149 copies, **all with adverts printed in green** (Cat. \$ 15 each). Includes five pairs. A real challenge for someone to work on! £375.00
- 1216 2d Second Setting.** Another reconstruction, using the commoner colours of adverts (red/red-brown/brown), and lacking only 19 stamps for completion. 221 Adson (one Pair) £265.00
- 1217 2d Third Setting.** A complete reconstruction of 240 (including two pairs) .. £295.00
- 1218 2½d Third Setting.** A partial reconstruction of 171 copies (including three pairs) £360.00

PENNY UNIVERSAL – MINT BLOCKS OF 4

No plate varieties – just "straight" blocks, all of the finest quality.

- 1219(a) London Print (G1a).** Unhinged mint block £20.00
- (b) **As above.** Unusually in this issue, we can offer two blocks in exceptionally fine shades of red (dull and deep bright). The pair of shade blocks £42.50
- 1220(a) "Pirie" Paper, Perf. 11 (G2a).** Marginal block, superb, unhinged and well-centred £22.50
- (b) **As above.** Two blocks, in brilliant shades of carmine £40.00
- 1221 "Pirie" Paper, Mixed Perfs. (G2e).** Corner block, all four stamps showing mixed perfs. 11 and 14 horizontally (no official patching). Cat. \$ 2000 as singles (S.G. £1000) £350.00

1222(a)	"Basted Mills" Paper, Perf. 14 (G3b). Marginal block, stamps unhinged	£50.00
(b)	As above. Set of two blocks, in the listed shades of carmine (hinged) and bright carmine (unhinged). Magnificent contrasts!	£95.00
1223(a)	"Basted Mills" Paper, Perf. 11 x 14 (G3c). Marginal block, stamps unhinged .	£45.00
(b)	As above. Set of two blocks, in the listed shades	£80.00
1224	"Basted Mills" Paper, Perf. 14 x 11 (G3d). Corner block, hinged in selvage only	£50.00
1225	"Basted Mills" Paper, Mixed Perfs. (G3e). Marginal block, all stamps with mixed perfs. 11 and 14 horizontally. With official patching and razor cuts — a superb example of the complex mixed perfs. process. Cat. \$ 800 (S.G. £400) .	£175.00
1226(a)	Cowan Unwmk'd Paper, Perf. 14 (G4a). Marginal block, unhinged	£50.00
(b)	As above, but two blocks in splendid shades	£90.00
1227	Cowan Wmk'd Paper, Early Local Plates, Perf. 14 (G5a). Set of two blocks, one worn plate, the other unworn	£22.50
1228	"Reserve" Plate, Perf. 14 (G6a). Superb unhinged block, in a typical rich "Reserve" plate shade	£95.00
1229	"Booklet" Plate (G7a). Finest mint block of 4	£95.00
1230	"Dot" Plates, Perf. 14 (G8a). Set of four blocks showing a striking range of both shade and plate wear	£60.00
1231	"Dot" Plates, Mixed Perfs. (G8d). Marginal block, with mixed perfs. 11 and 14 at bottom only (no patching). Unhinged	£25.00
1232(a)	Waterlow Trial Plates, Perf. 14 (G9a). Unhinged mint block (from Plate W1)..	£55.00
(b)	As above. Set of two blocks, one each from W1 and W2 — lovely shades, too ..	£90.00
1233(a)	Royle Plates, Perf. 14 (G10a). Marginal block in a deep rich shade. Perfect unhinged	£27.50
(b)	As above. Corner block with sheet serial number, same shade	£30.00
(c)	As above. Set of three blocks in magnificent shades, including a marginal block in blood-red	£70.00
1234(a)	Surface Print (G11a). Marginal block, stamps all perfect unhinged	£115.00
(b)	As above. Top left corner block, with sheet serial number. Very light selvage hingeing only	£120.00

1235	'Simplified' Set of 11 blocks of 4, representing all the main listings in the C.P. Catalogue, G1 – G11, all selected quality. Special Christmas offer at .. £375.00
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RECENT 'BIRD' BOOKLETS

During the past 2½ years numerous changes have taken place to N.Z. booklets featuring the 30c and 40c bird definitives (PC5 and PC7). None was on sale for any great length of time (as details in the following listing will indicate), and indeed one booklet is known to have had a life of only 3 weeks. A quotation from an N.Z. student is worthy of note: "The Christchurch Philatelic Bureau have had a number of letters requesting Katiki Point Booklets that collectors had read about in the C.P. Newsletter! Most of the staff there don't even remember them. However one of the salespersons told me he sold about 20 booklets during the 3 weeks they were available." Need we say more!

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|---|--------|
| 1236(a) \$3 and \$3.30 Booklets (W20a and b) — on sale for only 9 months. One of each booklet, panes with plain selvages (now Cat. \$20 each) | £15.00 |
| (b) As above. Two \$3 booklets, the illustrated covers in nice shades | £15.00 |
| (c) As above. \$3.30 booklet with a red flaw on the front cover | £10.00 |
| (d) As above. Another \$3.30 booklet (pane with sheet value marking) with a different red flaw on the front cover | £10.00 |
| 1237(a) Original \$4 and \$4.40 Booklets (W21a and b) — on sale for only (approx.) 5 months. One of each booklet, panes with plain selvages (now Cat. \$20 each). | £15.00 |
| (b) As above. One of each booklet, panes with sheet value markings | £15.00 |
| (c) As above. One of each booklet, panes with part printers imprint and without any 'kiwi' symbols | £17.50 |
| 1238(a) Second Type \$4 and \$4.40 Booklets. (W22a and b) — on sale for only (approx.) 6 months. The illustrated cover in these booklets was the same as the originals, but with a new front cover logo and cream card (not white). One of each booklet, panes with plain selvages (also Cat. \$20 each) | £15.00 |
| (b) As above. One of each booklet, panes with sheet value markings | £15.00 |
| (c) As above. One of each booklet, panes with part printers imprint/1 'kiwi' symbol | £17.50 |
| (d) As above. The \$4 Booklet (W22a) was reprinted during its brief life using 40c Bird/2 'kiwi' sheets. The example here offered shows this marking, with part printers imprint (incidentally, the illustrated cover differs in shade from the initial W22a supply) | £10.00 |
| 1239(a) Third Type \$4 and \$4.40 Booklets — completely new cover illustrations as well as a new bi-coloured (red/blue) square 'Logo' box. The \$4 version enjoyed a relatively 'long' life of (approx.) 10 months, but the \$4.40 booklet was on sale only for 3 weeks (the practice of pricing at 10% premium for sale at non-post-office outlets was discontinued shortly after its issue). One of each booklet, panes with plain selvages (now Cat. \$20 and \$50 respectively) | £25.00 |

- (b) **As above.** One of each booklet, panes with sheet value markings £25.00
- (c) **As above.** One of each booklet, panes with part printers imprint/2 'kiwi' symbols £30.00
- (d) **As above.** During its currency the \$ 4 Booklet was reissued using 40c Bird/3 'kiwi' sheets. This booklet shows part printers imprint and 3 'kiwi' symbols .. £10.00
- (e) **As above.** Two \$ 4 Booklets (panes with sheet value markings) the Logo boxes being pale (red and blue) and deep (red and blue) respectively £15.00

RECENT ISSUES

1988 Frama Label. A changed design for the postage labels obtained from the Frama Vending Machines. (issued 22/8/88).

- 40c Label, mint £1.00
- 40c Label on Official First Day Cover (Wanganui pmk.) £1.00

1988 Christmas, 35c, 70c, 80c, 85c (issued 14/9/88).

- Mint set of 4 £1.80
- Set of 4 imprint blocks, one each value (6 stamps per block) £12.50
- Official Illustrated First Day Cover (Wanganui pmk.) £2.00
- Booklet, containing a pane of 10 x 35c Christmas stamps attached by the top selvage. **New this year** £3.10

1988 Collector Pack. 27 stamps, housed in a lavishly decorative folder, with detailed notes regarding each issue (all special sets 1987 Fibre to 1988 Christmas).

- Post paid £12.75

1988 Heritage (The Land), 40c, 60c, 70c, 80c, \$ 1.05, \$ 1.30 (issued 5/10/88).

- Mint set of 6 £3.20
- Set of 6 imprint blocks, one each value (6 stamps per block) £22.00
- Official Illustrated First Day Cover (Wanganui pmk.) £3.40

\$ 1 Kiwi "round" stamp (issued 19/10/88). The first N.Z. stamp to be **recess-printed** for 25 years (see this month's Bulletin note). Issued (in strip form) **only** in \$ 6 Booklets, so there are no **blocks** of any kind.

- Mint single 68p
- Official Illustrated First Day Cover (Wanganui pmk.) 88p
- \$ 6 Booklet, containing a horizontal strip of six \$ 1 stamps in a most unusual format (includes a gutter pair!) £4.00

(Panels only — to display the unique layout — are available at the same price.)