

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

1d Dominion. It's amazing what can still turn up, even in such an intensively studied issue as this. We recently discovered a mint horizontal pair with litho imitation watermark (J5a), showing double perforations — a variety new to us, and unrecorded by any of the usual sources. We plated the pair to Row 9, Nos. 21–22 which, being the second-bottom row in the sheet, raises the interesting possibility that it **may** originate from a sheet in which the lowermost strike of the comb head was misplaced upwards, leaving the bottom row imperf. at sides and foot, and the row above (whence our pair came) with double perfs. at sides and foot. Wouldn't it have been nice if the pair below had still been attached, rendering conjecture unnecessary!

The new 'Birds' Definitives. Initial supplies of the eight values, ranging from 10c to 90c, issued on 2/11/88, produced several points of interest:

- (i) **Appearance from the front.** The 20c, 40c, 50c, 80c and 90c were all on white paper, similar to that of the 70c issued earlier (incidentally this 70c was originally scheduled to be among the November issue, but its issue was advanced to coincide with the introduction of the 'Fastpost' service on 7/6/88). The 10c, 30c and 60c were on paper distinctly creamish by comparison.
- (ii) **Appearance from the gummed side.** Differences were even more striking. The 20c had white gum. The 50c greenish white, all other values notably cream. Harking back again to the 70c, all sheet stamps we have checked had greenish white, similar to the 50c. On the other hand we have seen both **greenish white**, and **white** (as the 20c) in the \$7 Fastpost booklets. Since we understand that all of these booklets to date have been made up from one-kiwi reprint sheets, paper with both gums must have been used in this reprint.
- (iii) **Used copies.** The differences detailed in (i) above coincide with a marked variation in texture, noticeable on the unprinted side. The 10c, 30c and 60c were notably rougher or 'coarser' in appearance than the other values, which were relatively smooth.
- (iv) **Sheet value markings.** The 10c was the odd one out, on two counts. The value read '\$10' (as opposed to '\$20.00', '\$30.00' etc. in the other values), and it was also in a totally different typeface from the rest.

- (v) **Colour code dots** (or 'traffic lights'). These were, as has been customary in recent Leigh-Mardon productions, in the left selvage, alongside R10/1. They form a vertical bank of four coloured discs, from top to bottom, yellow, magenta, blue and black, in all values except the 20c, where for some reason the black 'blob' appears **above** the other three. From its positioning, it seems the black dot may originally have been omitted in error, and added in the wrong position at a later stage. Again referring back to the 70c, it is interesting to note that while its 'traffic lights' conform with the majority in all other respects, the topmost dot in this case is lime-green, not yellow.
- (vi) **Perforations.** All supplies we have seen gauged 14¼ x 14, effected by a single comb head tracking from top to bottom of the sheet. In this head, the long row has a seven-pin extension at each end, and in each of the short rows, one pin trails behind the long row (this latter is a device used to produce uniform perforations at all four corners of comb-perforated stamps). Since the direction of perforating was top to bottom, no bottom selvage blocks will be found in 'not perforated through' form. On the other hand, top selvages **may** be found in both forms in all or any values — to date we have seen the 10c, 30c and 90c 'perfed through' only, and all other values 'not perfed through' only. It has been reported elsewhere ('New Zealand Stamp Collector', December 1988) that the perforations of all values are 14¼ x 13¼. While it is possible that stamps of two different perforations may have been issued simultaneously — remember the 1c and 2c Minerals from the same printers? — we suspect this latter report is probably an error.

In the nature of things the above notes should be treated as 'subject to revision'. Any fresh information or findings will be welcomed.

REVIEW

Collecting New Zealand Stamps by Robin Gwynn. Published by Heinemann Reed at N.Z. \$ 29.95 (exclusive of postage).

This is an unusual and interesting book. Basically it is itself a review of the entire field of New Zealand stamps, from the Full-Face Queens right up to the present day, and of the established reference books relating thereto, as seen through the eyes of the writer. Within that overall context, it serves as a vehicle for the expression of Dr. Gwynn's extended views on several particular topics. Some might see some of the opinions expressed as anarchic, or at the least non-conformist, but to this reviewer at least it is none the less an absorbing and worthwhile work for that. Full of beyond-the-catalogues and beyond-the-Handbooks comment, observation and information, it should be of considerable appeal to all but the confirmed "one-of-each-and-nothing-more-is-enough-for-me" simplified collector. The illustrations, including sixteen colour plates, are well chosen and generally of a high standard, although in just one or two instances the colour approximation could have been better. An excellent book to read, and an even better one to have on the shelf for reference. Well printed on high quality paper, my only fear is that for many its usefulness may well outlast its rather flimsy binding within a limp albeit colourful and attractive cover.

G.C.H.

An unusually interesting right marginal block of 4 from the original plates, on Cowan wmk'd paper, with impression of large plate retaining screw in the selvage. This block emanates from a sheet which must have been damaged in some way prior to perforating and the left-hand vertical pair (also imperf. at that stage) has been officially patched in from another sheet of a violently different shade. The whole was then perforated by the line machine gauging 11. Moreover, the patched-in pair, although appearing in the block as Rows 5 and 6, No. 23, is actually plateable to plate 1, R5-6 No. 12, proved by the R5/12 re-entry. Thus we have a block of F4a (a scarce stamp in itself), with stamps in two markedly different shades, and a re-entry in the wrong position! Perfs. rather fragile, but the entire block is mint unhinged. Superb specialist item, offered at very little more than the price of a normal block of 4 £150.00

(Note: A similar block of 6, almost certainly from the top right corner of the same sheet, was offered in auction some time ago, estimated at £500).

1d DOMINION VARIETY OFFERS

- 202(a) De La Rue Paper Issue.** Set of two finest mint blocks of 4, one overprinted OFFICIAL, each block with superb and complete full offset impression on the backs of all four stamps (J1aZ and JO1aZ). A spectacular pair of variety blocks £100.00
- (b) As above.** Marginal block of 4 including the Plate 12, R3/1 'Feather' flaw. Mint unhinged £10.25
- 203 Jones Paper, Major Variety.** Mint strip of three, left stamp normal, centre stamp partly surfaced, right stamp totally unsurfaced (J2aX). From the only recorded sheet of imperfectly manufactured paper, in which the chalk-surfacing was missing from the right-hand half (approximately) of the sheet. Only ten such strips could possibly exist — this one is plated to Row 7, Nos. 12-14, thus conforming with the recorded incidence of the fault. The variety is a naked-eye one, the printing on the unsurfaced area being paler and markedly duller. Centre stamp lightly hinged, others unhinged. An exhibition piece par excellence £325.00
- 204(a) Litho Imitation Wmk. Issue (J5a).** Set of seven finest mint blocks of 4 (two marginal), showing shades of the 'watermark' ranging from deep blue to yellow-green. Lovely lot! £30.00
- (b) As above.** Major error 'Watermark' Printed on Front (J5aZ), in fine mint block of 4. Confirmation of the variety (if confirmation be needed, for it is quite evident on the design side of this block) is to be found on the backs of the stamps, where the print shows clearly through as an apparently reversed (i.e. right reading) watermark £145.00
- (c) As above.** Marginal block of 4, upper right stamp being the Plate 12 R5/24 'Broken Globe' variety (J5aP). Fine mint £12.50
- 205 Cowan Paper.** Major error, Pair Imperforate (J6aY). Mint unhinged £52.50

- 206 Cowan Paper, Reversed Wmk.** Mint strip of three, centre stamp with the so-called 'Broken N' flaw (J6aU). This description doesn't really do justice to what is easily the most prominent 1d Dominion plate variety, which occurred late in the life of plate 12 (on R9/23), and is found on only the last three issues (Cowan, Cowan Reversed Wmk. and Wiggins Teape papers). According to Vol. 1 of the N.Z. Handbook, the damage resulting in this flaw was done when an implement was dropped accidentally on the plate when top selvedge arrows were being added in 1926 £27.50
- 207 Wiggins Teape Paper.** The same 'Broken N' variety in superb mint block of 4 (J8aU) £75.00

K.G.V RECESS — SOME USED MULTIPLES

- 208 2d Violet.** Block of 4, perf. 14 x 14½ (K2b), superb used at Alexandria, Egypt during World War 1, with two clear strikes of the N.Z. Advanced Base Army Post Office c.d.s. (Handbook, Vol. 3, Page 354, Type 32) dated 21st Jan., 1916 £60.00
- 209 2½d Slate Blue.** Block of 4, perf. 14 x 13½ (K3a), similarly cancelled, but dated 15th Oct., 1916 £15.00
- 210 4d Violet, Plate 20.** Blocks of 4 and 6 perf. 14 x 13½ (K5d) and a block of 4 perf. 14 x 14½ (K5e), in a magnificent range of shades £10.00
- 211 5d Blue.** Block of 4 in steel blue, perf. 14 x 14½ (K7b) with 1934 Wellington registered c.d.s. Minor perf. reinforcement, otherwise superb £17.50
- 212 6d Carmine.** Two vertical blocks of 6, both perf. 14 x 13½ (K8a) in magnificent contrasting shades of carmine and pale carmine. One stamp has a crease, and both blocks have some short perfs., but a most attractive pair of multiples £10.00
- 213(a) 7½d Deep Red-Brown.** Block of 4, perf. 14 x 13½ (K9a), cancelled similarly to lot 208 above, but dated 22nd Feb., 1916. Stamps rather off-centre £32.50
- (b) As above.** Very similar block, but with light and indefinite parcel cancel £15.00
- 214 9d Sage Green.** Magnificent block of 8 (4 x 2), perf. 14 x 13½ (K11a) in a bright yellow-olive shade, beautifully cancelled by the unusual c.d.s. of Pakotai dated 30th Sept., 1929. Used blocks of this size and quality are scarce to say the least £65.00

KING GEORGE V ADMIRAL ISSUES

- 215(a) 2/- Jones Paper (K20a).** Fresh unhinged mint copy with watermark upright. Cat. \$ 180, but somewhat off-centre, hence only £40.00
- (b) As above.** Perfect unhinged mint example, with wmk. inverted (K20aZ). Brilliant! £72.50
- (c) As above.** Another inverted wmk. copy, previously hinged and not so well centred £30.00

(d)	As above. Not-so-fine used copy, with small faults. Attractive appearance, and a good spacefiller at	£7.50
216(a)	2/- Cowan Paper (K20b). Fine used (c.d.s.)	£10.25
(b)	As above. Set of two, in the listed shades of blue and deep blue. Fine used ..	£22.50
(c)	As above. A beautiful used (dated) pair in deep blue	£22.50
217(a)	3/- Jones Paper (K21a). Superb unhinged mint copy	£120.00
(b)	As above, but very lightly hinged, and very fine	£75.00
218	3/- Cowan Paper (K21b). Superfine used copy	£80.00

219 1935 K.G.V SILVER JUBILEE

Set of six plate blocks of 4 ($\frac{1}{2}$ d x 2, 1d x 3, 6d), complete except the 1d plate 6. Finest mint. Cat. \$ 275

£85.00

220 1935 AIR MAIL STAMPS

A fabulous lot of ten plate blocks (4 x 1d, 3 x 3d, 3 x 6d), the blocks of each value showing a magnificent range of shades. The ten corner blocks of 4, each with plate number (and sheet serial number) and all in superb mint condition. Unrepeatable

£200.00

NEW ZEALAND AIR COVERS

The excellent airmail handbook by D.A. Walker, Volume 2, is devoted to the 1928–1940 Overseas flights. Only the first three items that follow come into this period. For information on and listings of subsequent flights, we recommend the pamphlet and check list by N.C. Baldwin "The External Air Mails of New Zealand", and "The New Zealand Airmail Catalogue" by James A. Stapleton

221(a)	1st MAY 1940. Inaugural Trans-Tasman flying boat service. An Australian commemorative air cover (226mm x 101mm) addressed to Auckland and received on the 2nd May (see Handbook pages 314–325)	£10.00
(b)	As above. An identical cover, backstamped TASMAN EMPIRE AIRWAYS LTD cachet in blue, and signed by the pilot Capt. J.W. Burgess	£32.50
222	19th MARCH 1941. Illustrated N.Z. air mail envelope, addressed to the UK and carried by Pan American Airways on the wartime route via the U.S. (see Handbook page 338). No transit markings, but the correct 5/9d postage has been prepaid. Attractive	£17.50
223(a)	NOV. 1941. 9th Nov. Fiji cover addressed to N.Z. (arrived on the 11th) on the Fiji – NZ Trans-Pacific flight, complete with special Fijian cachet in purple. Nice	£10.00

- (b) **As above.** N.Z. air-cover of 11th NOV. 1941, addressed to USA, carried on the return NZ — Fiji flight. Complete with special N.Z. boxed cachet in red, and a Suva transit marking of 13th NOV. £12.50
- 224(a) 24th NOV. 1944.** First New Zealand — Rarotonga mail carried by R.N.Z.A.F. This N.Z. cover has the Rarotonga arrival datestamp of 24th NOV. £10.00
- (b) **As above.** The return leg of this flight. A Rarotonga registered cover, dated 25th NOV and addressed to Gisborne — without a receiving mark but authenticated by the expert committee of the N.Z. Air Mail Society £12.50
- 225(a) 1945/1946.** Two U.K. envelopes, both addressed to the Commercial Manager, Tasman Empire Airways, Wellington, one dated late 1945, the other early 1946. Both contain memoranda from the British Overseas Airways Corporation requesting that the letter should be completed, and then returned to London, together with its original envelope. They are apparently test letters to help gauge the resumption of air flights between U.K. — N.Z. after the end of World War 2. Fascinating and most unusual £27.50
- (b) **As above.** A similar envelope dated early in 1946, from N.Z. Tasman Empire Airways Ltd to the British Overseas Airways Corp., London, complete with N.Z. — U.K. test letter. Obviously part of the same test, this time gauging N.Z. — U.K. flights. Superb £17.50
- 226 25th APR. 1947.** Envelope carried on the Auckland — Vancouver first flight, received on the 27th, and then posted back to N.Z. on the 29th. Obviously philatelically inspired, with a multiplicity of N.Z. and Canadian adhesives .. £10.00
- 227 26th MARCH 1948.** Airmail envelope, addressed to U.K., and carried on the first scheduled B.O.A.C. flying-boat service Japan — G.B., 26 MR 48. N.Z. adhesives cancelled by A.F.P.O. No 30/R.A.A.F. Japan/25 MR 48. No arrival marking, but the previous owner believed this to be a very rare cover £30.00
- 228(a) 3rd OCT. 1950.** N.Z. cover, addressed to Australia, carried by the First Direct Air Mail flight Wellington — Sydney by Solent Flying Boat. Complete with special cachet in purple, and a Sydney backstamp £5.00
- (b) **As above.** Two commemorative covers, one Wellington — Sydney (as described in 'a'), the other from the return leg Sydney — Wellington carried on the 6th Oct. £15.00
- 229(a) 20th DEC. 1950.** Canterbury Centennial 1850—1950 flight, Christchurch to Sydney by Tasman Empire Airways Ltd. (T.E.A.L.). Plain cover with special boxed cachet in purple, at least one of the adhesives is from the set of five 1950 Canterbury Centennial stamps £5.00
- (b) **As above.** This commemorative cover bears a complete set of all five Canterbury Centennial stamps, and is complete with the boxed cachet £10.00

RECENT ISSUES

- 1988 First Day Cover Pack.** Colourful illustrated folder containing 15 New Zealand F.D.C's from the 1987 Fibre to the 1988 Christmas issues (post paid) £20.00