

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

The Second Pictorials – “Blitz Perfs”. The contract to produce all the ‘Pictorial’ recess-printed values (that is, the entire set excepting the 9d) was awarded to Messrs. De La Rue & Co., but when their premises in London were damaged by enemy bombing in late 1940—early 1941, that firm was temporarily unable to cope fully with its obligations, and two other security printing firms, Waterlow & Sons and Harrison & Sons, were enlisted for a period of a few months to assist in maintaining continuity of supply. This resulted in what became popularly known as the “Blitz Perfs”, although strictly speaking, a more accurate term would be “Blitz Issues”, for in addition to assistance with perforating by both companies, Waterlow & Sons were also involved in the actual printing of some supplies. A full list of these emergency issues is to be found on Permanent Page L3 in the C.P. Catalogue.

The “Blitz Perfs” are, of course, of interest in themselves. However, the printing involvement of Waterlow & Sons resulted in a phenomenon of particular and special philatelic interest. All eight of the plates printed from by Waterlow (4d centre plate 3, 4d frame plate 2B, 5d plate 1, 6d plate 2, 8d plate 3, 1/- plate A1, 2/- plate 1 and 3/- plate 1) had been passed over to them by De La Rue, and when Waterlow had completed their emergency printings, all were returned to De La Rue for further use. But while in Waterlow’s hands, at least five of these plates (both 4d’s, 5d, 6d and 8d) acquired a series of markings, in the form of groups of coloured dots arranged in roughly horizontal rows, which appeared in the selvages of printed sheets – in the case of the 4d and 8d, close to the middle of the top selvedge, and in the 5d and 6d, close to the middle of the right selvedge. Moreover, in all cases except the 6d, sheets printed by Waterlow occurred with progressively increasing numbers of dots (although the progression was seemingly not always regular).

Waterlow explained that these markings were added to the plates by their Bank Note Department as an indication to themselves on which shift a particular sheet had been printed, and that differing numbers of dots on sheets of the same denomination indicated different shifts. There was no explanation as to why sheets of the 1/-, 2/- and 3/- printed by Waterlow are unknown with “shift markings”, nor why the progressive increase in the numbers of dots did not (as mentioned above) always follow a regular pattern.

There is no evidence to suggest that any of these markings, in their final forms, were removed from the plates at any subsequent stage. In fact there is considerable evidence that they

were not removed. In attempting to compile a comprehensive list of possible markings, therefore, it is best to consider them in two groups: (1) On printings made by Waterlow, and (2) On subsequent printings, from the same plates, made by De La Rue. In the lists that follow, the figures in parentheses after the number of dots indicate the layout in horizontal rows, commencing at the top of the marking; an asterisk indicates a marking I have seen, or which has been reported to me by correspondents.

Group 1 — Printings by Waterlow & Sons:

5d L8d : 4 dots (2,2)*; 5 dots (2,2,1)*; 6 dots (2,2,2)*; 7 dots (2,2,2,1)*;
8 dots (2,2,2,2)*.

6d L9c : No dots*; 2 dots (2)*.

8d L10d : 1 dot*; 7 dots (4,3)*; 8 dots (4,4)*; 10 dots (5,5)*;
13 dots (6,7)*; 14 dots (7,7)*; 15 dots (7,8)*.

1/- L12c : No dots.

2/- L13e : No dots.

3/- L14e : No dots.

Group 2 — Subsequent printings by De La Rue:

5d Pl. 1 : L8e 8 dots (2,2,2,2); L8f 8 dots (2,2,2,2)*.

6d Pl. 1 : L9d 2 dots (2)*; L9e 2 dots (2)*.

8d Pl. 3 : L10e 15 dots (7,8)*.

1/- Pl. A1 : L12d No dots.

2/- Pl. 1 : L13f No dots; L13g No dots.

3/- Pl. 1 : L14f No dots; L14g No dots.

I have deliberately left the 4d to be dealt with separately, for two reasons. Firstly, it is printed in two colours, and therefore from two plates, so the shift dots on this value are actually two separate markings, one set (in black) relating to the centre plate, the other set (in sepia) relating to the frame plate. When centre plate 3 and frame plate 2B were used in combination, the full marking appeared as four horizontal rows of dots, the upper two being the centre plate marking, and the lower two that of the frame plate. Part of the former was frequently missing from the issued sheets as a result of the trimming process, but usually sufficient remains to allow positive identification. The second complicating factor arises in the later De La Rue printings from these plates, since they were used both in combination with each other, and in combination with other plates which were never printed from by Waterlow, and which therefore bore no shift markings. Thus, to be added to Group 1 above, we have:

4d L7c : No dots*; 8 dots (3,3/1,1)*; 16 dots (5,5/3,3)*.

4d L7d : 20 dots (7,7/3,3)*; 26 dots (10,10/3,3)*.

and to be added to Group 2:

4d L7e : (from pl. 3—2B) 26 dots (10, 10/3,3)*

(from pl. 3—2A) 20 dots (10, 10/—,—)*

(from pl. 4—2B and —2B) 6 dots (—,—/3,3)*

I will come to the issues overprinted Official next month.

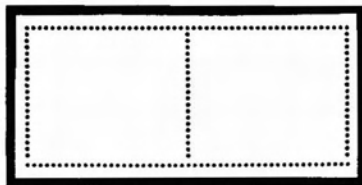
From next month, as an additional service to readers, we hope to reproduce in the Bulletin on a regular basis the new issue notes which are published in the C.P. Newsletter. Meanwhile Angela Nicholson of our Auckland staff has been following up the modern miniature sheet perforating peculiarities which I first discussed in these columns several months ago. Here is Angela's report:

The Perforating of Miniature Sheets. The recently issued miniature sheets (Waitangi Sesquicentennial and the Commonwealth Games pair) once again raise the question as to how such sheets are perforated. On all three sheets, the perforations surround the stamps only — they do not extend to the edge of the sheets. This suggests that in each case a special perforating head must have been manufactured. This idea was first put forward by Colin Hamilton in C.P.'s September 1989 Bulletin. Colin's observations led him to believe that a combination of comb and line heads is used in the perforating of miniature sheets. Colin cited the 1987 Parks sheet as an example and suggested that a mini comb head, in the shape of three sides of a rectangle, was first of all used to perforate three sides of the stamp. This was then followed by a single line head which perforated the fourth side of the stamp. Our English office then found dramatic evidence which verified this idea — a blank interleaving sheet from the same issue which was lacking the fourth side of perforations. This sheet had gone through the comb stage of the process only.

Further evidence for the use of two separate perforating heads can be seen at the points of intersection of the two different head types. One striking example mentioned by Colin is the 1988 R.P.S.N.Z. Centenary sheet. Several examples exist where the ends of the comb perforation are badly out of alignment with the single line perforation. The poor registration of the perforating heads reveals that, in this case, the line head had one extra pin set at right angles to the rest of the row. This ensured uniformly neat corners. The open ends of the comb head are correspondingly one pin shorter.

Turning now to the three recent miniature sheet issues, our supplies of both the Waitangi sheet and the Commonwealth Games harbour scene sheet show excellent perforation registration and it is thus very difficult to determine the method used. The Waitangi miniature sheet is a particularly complicated affair and we would like to hear from any reader who knows how this one was perforated!

Amongst our supply of the Mt. Smart Stadium sheet were several examples of very poor registration which reveal that perforation was carried out by a single strike of a mini comb head, followed by a strike of a line head which added the bottom row of perforations to both stamps. One of our most extreme examples shows a downward displacement of the bottom row of perforations formed by the line head. We also have several sheets where the line head has been displaced upwards or has been shifted to the left or right of the comb perforations.



1990 Mt. Smart Stadium. Downward displacement of the bottom row of perforations formed by the line head.



1988RPSNZ Centenary. The comb and line perforations are poorly aligned.

LIFE INSURANCE DEPT' — THE 'V.R.' ISSUES

- 501 Complete Used Set** of six values (½d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 6d, 1/-) as issued on 2nd January 1891, all perf. 12 x 11½, on the so-called 'Life Insurance' paper with 4mm watermark (this paper was actually used for numerous other stamp issues immediately prior to the appearance of the first Life Insurance Dept. set). **Not quite** out of the top drawer (odd heavyish postmark, and centring a little variable) but all sound examples, and a very fair representation of a scarce and difficult issue. Cat. \$ 640 £82.50
- 502 ½d Purple.** A beautiful used **block of 4** of the original issue (X1a). A most unusual little gem £30.00
- 503 1/- Rose (X6a).** The only mint stamp in the listing, but it's a beauty! A fine fresh lightly hinged copy of excellent colour, centred just fractionally high. A rare stamp in mint condition, and there can't be many better examples than this one. Cat. \$ 1500 (S.G. £650) £345.00
- 504 1891 Change of Paper.** Just two values (1d and 2d) appeared, still perf. 12 x 11½, but on the 7mm wmk. paper which was to become the norm. for the next ten years or so. Here they are, finest used (X2b, X3b) £22.50
- 505 1893 Change of Perf.** Set of three (½d, 1d, 2d), perf. 10, now all on 7mm wmk. paper. Exceptionally fine used £8.50
- 506(a) 1896—7 Compound Perf.** ½d and 1d, both perf. 11 x 10 (X1c, X2d(Z)). Contrary to impression given by the S.G. listings, it is this form of the 1d, **not** the 10 x 11, which is the scarce one, and you may take it from us, it really is **rare**. The pair, superb used £100.00
- (b) As above.** The same values, but perf. 10 x 11 (X1c(Z), X2d), fine used. In this case the ½d is the scarcer of the two, though not as rare as the 11 x 10 1d £40.00
- 507(a) 1897—8 Perf. 11, Wmk. Upright.** Set of three (½d, 1d, 2d), finest used £4.75
- (b) As above.** Another superb used set, but with an additional 2d in the scarce and quite distinctive **chocolate** shade £22.50
- 508(a) 1902—3 Wmk. Sideways.** Horizontal pairs of the ½d (superb used) and 1d (fine commercially used), perf. 11 (X1g, X2h) £5.00
- (b) As above.** Superb used copy of the 1d, perf. 14 x 11 (X2j) £8.00
- Covers.** All printed official covers of the Govt. Life Ins. Dept., contemporarily used — scarce and desirable items!
- 509(a) ½d Perf. 11 (X1g).** Used on cover with Wellington 'Flag' cancel of Sept. 6, 1900. Lovely condition! £165.00
- (b) As above.** Same stamp, same cancellation, but dated Feb. 26, 1901, and cover has mourning 'triangle' added at top left corner (as a mark of respect to Queen Victoria, who had died just a month or so earlier). Condition **not quite** so fine as previous item, but still very reasonable £125.00

- 510(a)** 1d Perf. 11 (X2f). On cover similar to lot 509(b) above, but with Wellington c.d.s. and vertical bars cancel dated 24 Dec. 1901. Very fine £165.00
- (b)** As above. On Auckland agency mourning cover (small tears clear of adhesive, otherwise superb) dated 29 Mar. 1901 £125.00

- 511** 2d Perf. 11 (X3d). Used on Head Office, Wellington cover with superb Wellington triple ring c.d.s. of 15 Dec. 1898. Flap present, but has been roughly torn open — facially fine £145.00

- 512** 1971–73 4c on 2½c PROVISIONAL (P30a/b/c)

A complete set of plate blocks with all three types of surcharge (Harrison photogravure, Harrison letterpress and Local Letterpress). Fourteen plate blocks of 10 stamps each, unhinged mint throughout. Difficult to assemble now £57.50

KING GEORGE VI PLATE/IMPRINT BLOCKS

A selection from stock, many at special prices. Unless otherwise indicated, all items offered are in mint blocks of 4, 6 or 8 stamps as listed in the C.P. Catalogue.

- 513** ½d Chestnut, Fine VM Paper (M1c). Plate 100 or 101, each £2.25
- 514** ½d Chestnut, Coarse VM Paper (M1d). Plate 101, 111 or 133, each £2.00
- 515** 1d Scarlet (M2a). Imprint block (no plate number). Gum tone spot one stamp. Cat. \$ 65 £15.00
- 516(a)** 1d Green, Fine VM Paper (M2c). Plate 28 £5.00
- (b)** As above. Plate 102, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108 or 109, each £2.00
- 517(a)** 1d Green, Coarse VM Paper (M2d). Plate 73 £5.00
- (b)** As above. Plate 112, 113, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 122, 123, 124 or 128, each £1.75
- 518** 1d Green, Coarse HM Paper (M2e). Plate 85, very scarce. Gum stains on two stamps do not obtrude on facial appearance, which is superb £17.50
- 519(a)** 1½d Rose-Red, Coarse VM Paper (M4c). Complete set of eight plates as listed (two blocks of 8, six blocks of 6). Plate 129 includes the good R9/22 retouch, of course (MV4c(c)). The eight blocks £42.50
- (b)** As above. Plate 21 £10.00
- (c)** As above. Plate 130, 131, 136 or 137, each £2.00
- 520(a)** 2d Yellow-Orange, Coarse VM Paper (M6a). Plate 40, 44, 54, 55, 61, 76, 79 or 80, each £3.75
- (b)** As above. Complete set of six plate blocks of 6 (pl. nos. 140 – 145) £12.50
- (c)** As above. Plate 140, 141, 142, 144 or 145, each £2.00

521	2d Yellow-Orange, Coarse HM Paper (M6b). Plate 87	£7.50
522(a)	3d Blue, Fine VM Paper (M7a). Plate 39	£22.50
	(b) As above. Plate 138 or 139 (scarce on this paper), each	£27.50
523(a)	3d Blue, Coarse VM Paper (M7c). Plate 45 or 67, each	£3.50
	(b) As above. Plate 139	£2.00

N.Z. HEALTHS CONCLUDED

Carried over from last month, varieties 1978 to date.

543 (a)	1978 Health. 10c + 2c, two blocks of four, incorrect registration of the two background 'gold' colours results in sharp lettering in one block, and blurred lettering in the other. Nice	£7.50
	(b) As above. 12c + 2c, block of six from plate 1A, R6/8 flaw (annotation provided)	£4.50
	(c) As above. 12c + 2c, block of four from plate 1A, R8/2 flaw	£4.50
	(d) As above. 12c + 2c, block of four from plate 1B, R8/2 and 9/2 flaws	£6.50
	(e) As above. On normal 12c + 2c stamps the central surgeon is wearing a dark green tunic. On this copy the tunic is a strikingly pale shade (supplied with a normal for comparison). Brilliant contrasts	£7.50
	(f) As above. The same superb green shades, but in miniature sheets	£22.50
	(g) As above. Miniature sheet with R1/1 variety (flaw on T of Health)	£10.00
	(h) As above. Mini sheet with another R1/1 variety (flaw on H of Health)	£10.00
	(i) As above. Mini sheet, R2/1 flaw on L of Health variety	£10.00
	(j) As above. Mini sheet, R2/3 flaw on W of NEW variety	£10.00
544 (a)	1979 Health. 10c + 2c corner block of four (from pl. 1B) with R2/2 red flaws .	£4.00
	(b) As above. The same pl. 1B corner block with R2/2 flaws, together with a matching corner block (from pl. 1A) without the flaws	£5.50
	(c) As above. Two 10c + 2c matching bottom-right corner blocks, pl. 1B block with colour-code traffic lights, the other (from pl. 1A) without these markings ..	£5.50
	(d) As above. Two 10c + 2c blocks of four, shades of pale and deep green	£3.50
	(e) As above. Constant in the 12c + 2c plate 1B corner block is the R9/1 deep diagonal green scratch through HEALTH (which continues diagonally down into R10/2). The block of six, mint	£1.50
	(f) As above. Miniature sheet with R2/1 flaw on O of 10 variety	£6.50

545(a)	1981 Health. Two miniature sheets showing nice purple shades	£7.50
(b)	As above. Two miniature sheets with brilliant contrasts of the "blue band" which runs horizontally across the bottom of each stamp. Superb shades ..	£12.50
546(a)	1982 Health. Although only one plate number combination (1111) is known on the 24c value, it appears from clear differences in the "overrun" of the design in the left selvage that two distinct sets of plates were used to print this stamp. This pair of 24c plate blocks shows these differences to perfection .	£10.00
(b)	As above. Two miniature sheets in visibly different papers – "fine/white" and "coarse/toned".	£7.50
(c)	As above. The same distinct paper qualities are found in 24c sheet stamps – proved by the set of two imprint/plate blocks here offered	£10.00
(d)	As above. Two 30c stamps showing shades of both the dog and the green background	£3.00
547(a)	1983 Health. Miniature sheet with vertical scratch through the cat on R1/2 ..	£7.50
(b)	As above. Two 24c pairs (black and brown cat shades), and two 30c stamps (red and blue shades). Nice contrasts	£4.50
548	1984 Health. Three 24c se-tenant pairs, shades of most colours. Lovely	£4.00
549 (a)	1987 Health. Two 40c se-tenant pairs, border of left stamp in fine shades of orange and pink respectively	£3.00
(b)	As above. 60c marginal block of 8 with R5/4 flaw (below 6)	£7.50
(c)	As above. Miniature sheet with large R1/1 flaw (on NEW)	£4.50

NEW ZEALAND COMMEMORATIVES

Part one of a comprehensive listing of these special issues (sections S1 – S5 in the C.P. Catalogue). A varied offering, with much unusual material.

550(a)	1906 Christchurch Exhibition. (S1–S4). Mint set of 4 stamps, in brilliant fresh condition. The ½d and 6d are very lightly hinged, while the 1d and 3d are unmounted	£235.00
(b)	½d (S1a). Two mint copies, in the listed shades of emerald and bright green (incidentally both have W7b watermark inverted – S1aZ)	£30.00
(c)	As above. Used pair of ½d (same W7b watermark) pmk'd 8 NOV 06 at Lichfield St. (a branch post office which closed in 1908)	£30.00
(d)	1d (S2a). Top corner block of 4, with sheet serial number 148431, completely unmounted mint. A superb multiple	£100.00
(e)	As above. Two mint copies, watermark sideways (W7a) and sideways-inverted (W7b) respectively (S2a and S2aZ)	£30.00

(f)	As above. The same two watermarks on the 1d value, but commercially used copies. Cat. \$ 120, offered at	£17.50
(g)	As above. Fine used copy on Australian picture postcard, posted at Auckland on Christmas Eve, 1906	£15.00
(h)	As above. Used 1d stamp with the distinctive EXHIBITION/CHRISTCHURCH c.d.s. dated JA 07	£15.00
(i)	Christchurch Exhibition Postcard. (Webb series no. 2 — The Main Entrance), with the circular 'Posted at Top of Tower' cachet. Badly chewed at one edge, hence	£5.00
(j)	As above. Coloured card (Dutch series) of Main Exhibition Building with same 'Posted at Top of Tower' cachet. The Exhibition/Christchurch cancel is dated 22/3/07 (1d Universal adhesive). Nice	£25.00
(k)	Christchurch Exhibition Labels. Marginal block of 4 of label No. 3. A few splitting perfs., but otherwise superb condition	£20.00
(l)	As above. "NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION 1906—07" wrapper on thick pink paper, bearing a copy of the No. 2 label and addressed to The Secretary of the Royal Botanical Garden Club, London. 1d Universal adhesive (pmk'd on 20/12/05) ties the remains of the contents (an official Exhibition publication) to the wrapper. Apparently not mentioned in Alexander de Kort's comprehensive treatise on the 1906 Exhibition	£40.00
551(a)	1913 Auckland Exhibition (S5—8). Complete mint set — ½d and 1d very fine, 3d slightly off-centre, 6d well-centred but a few blunt perfs. Cat. \$ 630, offered at	£100.00
(b)	As above. Unhinged mint copy of the ½d (S5a)	£17.50
(c)	As above. Mint copy of the 1d (S6a). The stamp is from plate 12 R2/14 and shows the shield at right badly damaged (recorded in Fisher's monograph on the 1d Dominion)	£20.00
(d)	As above. Fine used copy of the 1d, with Exhibition cancellation, and showing the R5/24 Broken Globe flaw (SV6a(a)). Lovely item, and rare	£70.00
552(a)	1920 Victory (S9—S15). Hinged mint set of 7, Cat. \$ 82, offered at only	£10.00
(b)	½d (S9). Unmounted mint block of 4 (deep shade)	£10.00
(c)	As above. Three of the four listed shades (we regret the scarce pale yellow-green is missing!). Mint	£4.00
(d)	As above. Two mint ½ds showing part letters wmk. (A and S of POSTAGE) ..	£4.00
(e)	As above. Marginal pair of the ½d, the right hand stamp from the final column of a sheet, and showing clear doubling of some letters in NEW ZEALAND VICTORY STAMP, and POSTAGE & REVENUE. Position within the sheet unknown ...	£10.00
(f)	As above. Used copy with variety watermark inverted (S9aZ)	£35.00