

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

Over the past year or two, the Australian printers Leigh, Mardon Pty Ltd., have produced (up to the time of writing — late July 1989) a total of seven miniature sheets for the N.Z. postal authorities.

These can be divided into three categories: (i) Sheets containing a single stamp (1987 Parks, 1988 Walkways, 1988 \$1 R.P.S.N.Z. Centenary); (ii) Sheets containing a block of six stamps (1986 and 1987 Health); and (iii) Sheets containing a block of four stamps (1987 R.N.Z.A.F., 1988 Health).

In all cases, the perforations of these miniature sheets are confined round the stamps only — no holes are to be found extending into or through the surrounding selvage of any of the sheets. To achieve such a result obviously requires special techniques, using 'custom-made' perforating heads. While much research still remains to be done, my limited observations already suggest that some interesting and novel methods have been used. Basically, all appear to involve the use of comb and line heads **in combination** — unique to my knowledge in N.Z. issues (the only other instances which come to mind of comb and line perms being found **in the same sheet** are those exceptional cases of mixed perforations in the Sideface issues of last century, when a line head was occasionally used to correct inaccuracies on sheets which had been originally (and imperfectly) perforated by a comb machine — but those are not really comparable with the present examples).

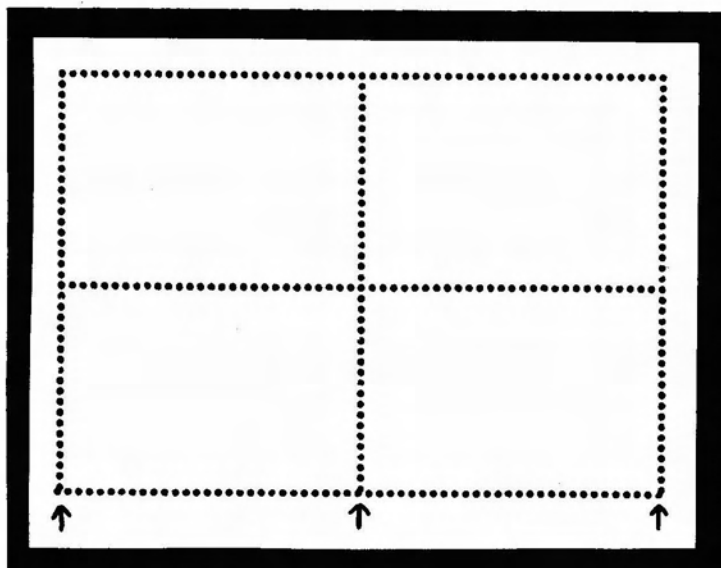
Dealing first with the 'single stamp' miniature sheets, I have noted peculiarities in some 1987 Parks sheets which suggest the use of a mini (**very** mini!) 'comb' head, in the shape of three sides of a rectangle (to perforate three sides of the stamp at a single pass), and an equally miniature single line head, just 26 pins in length, to perforate the fourth side. In addition to the evidence on the stamps themselves, I have seen even more powerful evidence on a blank interleaving sheet from this issue. This interleaving sheet had itself gone through

part of the perforating process, the 'comb' part, but the perforations corresponding to the fourth side had been omitted! The 1988 R.P.S.N.Z. Centenary sheet shows signs of a slight variation to the method used for the Parks sheets. Again evidence has been seen (in some sheets) which indicates two separate operations, but here the miniature 'line' head has one extra pin at each end, set at right angles to the row formed by the other pins, while the open sides of the miniature 'comb' are correspondingly one pin short (this refinement would have the advantage of ensuring uniformly neat corners, somewhat on the same principle as the 'Chambon' machine used in the 1960s, which dispensed with the problem of obtaining accurate registration of the perforations at the corners of stamps by transferring the problem elsewhere — in that case half-way along the sides of the stamps!).

On the 1987 Health issue (a six-stamp sheet), peculiarities noted suggest the use of a triple comb head, two stamps wide, perforating at a single strike the entire sheet with the exception of the top of the top row, that again being completed by the use of a single line head.

On the 1987 R.N.Z.A.F. sheets (of four stamps), the principle here seems to have been similar, except that in this instance the comb head was a **double** one, and perforated all but the bottom of the lower stamps, the job yet again being completed by a single strike of a line head.

The evidence for all of the observations mentioned is, of course, to be found at the points of intersection of the two different types of head used in each case — and then only when registration of the strikes has not been absolutely accurate. This is best illustrated by the most outstanding example I have seen to date, from the R.N.Z.A.F. issue, where the intersecting holes actually overlapped (see below).



I have not actually seen any similar evidence of such 'combination perforating' on the 1988 Health miniature sheets. However an interesting (and otherwise very puzzling) variety – discovered, incidentally, some time ago by our Managing Director and Catalogue Editor, Campbell Paterson himself – tends to lend credence to the use of comb and line perforating in combination on this issue too. At his local P.O., C.P. found two of the 1988 'Seoul' miniature sheets with the **central** horizontal row of perforations doubled. Unusual of itself, since as far as I am aware, there has never been any other instance of double perforations reported on **any** previous miniature sheet. Since there is to my knowledge absolutely no evidence anywhere of the use of a line head **internally** within any of these sheets, the question is, how could a single row of perforations in this position come to be doubled? It seems to me that the comb-and-line combination provides the only satisfactory answer to this question. And in that case, it becomes an even more unusual variety for, contrary to appearances, it is not the **middle** row of perfs which is doubled, but the **bottom** row, the extra strike being misplaced upwards by the depth of one stamp, thus resulting in a perfect optical illusion!

More recently, Mr. T. Hancox of the West Midlands has reported an equally interesting perforation variety on a sheet in his possession. In this case **all** of the perforations are clearly doubled, so the sheet must have passed twice through **both** the comb **and** the line machines. Mr. Hancox adds that his sheet was found among the contents of a copy of "The New Zealand Stamp Collection 1988", so any reader owning one should obviously take a close look at the Health miniature sheet contained therein!

"OFFICIAL PAID" MAIL

A selection of interesting material from a facet of N.Z. postal history which is extensive, little documented, little studied, little collected, and seldom offered. Unless otherwise stated, all items are used.

901(a)	Printing and Stationery Dept. Set of three O.P.S.O. envelopes, used in 1896, 1900 and 1902 respectively, showing three different designs of printed frank used by this Dept. (Handbook, Vol. 3, Page 463, Types 10, 11 and 12)	£30.00
(b)	As above. O.P.S.O. envelope with the first (type 10) 'Crown' motif printed frank	£10.00
(c)	As above. O.P.S.O. envelope with the second (type 11) 'VR' motif printed frank	£12.50
(d)	As Above O.P.S.O. label with type 10 frank. Unused, minor faults	£15.00
(e)	As above Similar label, but used. Very fine	£22.50
902(a)	Treasury Dept O.P.S.O. envelope with type 7 printed frank. Blue circular crest surmounted by crown on flap	£10.00
(b)	As above, but a superb unused example	£15.00
(c)	As above. Similar envelope, but with red oval crest on flap	£10.00
(d)	As above. The same envelope as (c) above, but special mourning printing (with black border). Used on 31st Jan. 1901 – nine days after Queen Victoria's death	£22.50

(e)	As above , but special "half-mourning" printing, with the triangular black printed area at top left corner of envelope. Unused	£22.50
(f)	As above . Another (later) type of Treasury Dept. O.P.S.O. envelope, also with the type 7 printed frank, but with 'Wellington' added in the bottom left corner, and no crest on flap. Used in 1912	£10.00
(g)	As above , but an unused example	£12.50
903	Post and Telegraph Dept. O.H.M.S. 'Money Order Advices' envelope, with single-line ' OFFICIAL PAID ' frank, and P & T. Dept. crest on flap. Sent from Wellington to a postmaster in Ireland in 1911, and subsequently re-addressed to Lawrence, U.S.A. Most unusual	£17.50
904	O.P.S.O Wrapper . Inscribed "Cover to be used by the Government Printer only/NEW ZEALAND PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES" and " EXEMPT from POSTAGE ", franked with printed facsimile signature of J. Mackay. No postal markings, but presumably used late 19th/early 20th century. A wrapper we haven't seen previously	£75.00
905	Government House . Set of two envelopes, used 1910 and 1912 respectively, with two different Government House Official Paid impressed franks (one is type 40, page 466, Vol. 3, the other is similar to type 41). One envelope has a printed crown in blue on the flap, the other a superb wax impression of the Govt. House seal. A lovely pair of covers	£57.50
906	General Assembly . Three envelopes, used in 1921, 1946 and 1929 respectively, all with different House of Representatives crests on flaps, and each with a different General Assembly impressed frank stamp on front. The franks are as type 44, page 466, Vol. 3, but are respectively, unnumbered (impressed in blue), No. 2 and No. 3 (both in violet). The No. 2 frank is on an envelope imprinted 'Office of the Leader of the Opposition'. The three covers	£52.50
907	High Commissioner for New Zealand . O.H.M.S. printed envelope from London to Dunedin, with 1931 London Official Paid marking in red, and good if slightly indistinct impression of the High Commissioner's oval seal in violet. Nice	£32.50

WORLD WAR I

908	Set of six censored covers (one is a front only) from members of the N.Z. forces in France, 1916-18, all with different Field Post Office c.d.s. of types 43 and 44, supplied by the British authorities for the use of N.Z.A.P.O.s - see Handbook, Vol. 3, pages 360 and 363. An interesting and unusual lot of wartime post history	£52.50
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SECOND PICTORIAL OFFICIALS

909(a)	Long Set, Mint . Set of 36 stamps, one of each C.P. Catalogue number with the exception of the ultra-rare 1½d (LO3a) and 8d (LO10c), but with 2 x LO9c showing overprint at top and bottom of stamp respectively. All fine mint. Cat. \$ 890, and very difficult to assemble nowadays	£295.00
(b)	Long Set, Used . An identical set of 36, but used - and even more difficult to put together than mint. Cat. \$ 610	£195.00

EARLIER COMMEMORATIVES – UNHINGED MINT!

910(a)	1906 Christchurch Exhibition. ½d value (S1a) – light horizontal crease, not evident on the front	£12.50
(b)	As above. 1d value (S2a) in vermilion, superb	£22.50
(c)	As above. Corner block of four of the 1d, with sheet serial number. Magnificent	£92.50
(d)	As above. Superb copy of the 3d (S3a)	£90.00
911	1913 Auckland Exhibition. 1d value (S6a)	£22.50
912(a)	1920 Victory. Complete set of seven (S9a – 15a) – a rare offering in unHINGED mint condition	£67.50
(b)	As above. Two copies of the ½d (S9a) in superb green shades	£5.00
(c)	As above. 2d on ½d provisional (S12a) – a brilliant block of 20 (5 x 4), with full bottom left corner selvage	£47.50
(d)	As above. Two copies of the 6d (S14a) in magnificent shades of purple	£55.00
913(a)	1923–25 1d Map Stamp. Set of three, one on each paper (S16a–c)	£20.00
(b)	As above. Marginal block of six on Jones paper (S16b), showing the R10/7 and 10/9 plate varieties (see N.Z. Handbook, Vol. 4)	£22.50
914	1925 Dunedin Exhibition. Set of three (S17a–c), superb and seldom available.	£42.50
915(a)	1935 Silver Jubilee. Set of three, ½d – 6d (S18a–c)	£17.50
(b)	As above. To the first order – the set in unHINGED mint block of four	£70.00
916	1940 Centennial. The complete set of 14 (S26a–38a) in superb unHINGED blocks of four	£100.00
917	1940 Centennial Officials. Complete ½d – 1/- (11) – another very elusive set in unHINGED mint	£80.00

HEALTHS, 1950 – 1954

As in previous listings, all offers are mint unless otherwise stated, many items being unHINGED.

918(a)	“Princess Elizabeth and Prince Charles” (T22a/b). Print of the photograph (taken by Marcus Adams Ltd.) which formed the basis of the design of this issue, plus a set of the issued stamps	£10.00
(b)	As above. Similar photograph, but this one signed by Marcus Adams (again with a set of the stamps)	£12.50
(c)	As above. Plate blocks (of six stamps) of each value	£2.50

(d)	As above. Each value in used block of four with first day cancellation. The two blocks	£1.50
(e)	As above. 1d value, variety Inverted Watermark (T22aY)	£4.00
(f)	As above, but block of four with wmk. inverted	£15.00
(g)	As above. The set of two used , both with inverted watermark (T22aY, T22bY) — the 2d 'invert' is quite scarce	£15.00
(h)	As above, but in used blocks of four , again with wmk. inverted. The 1d block is badly creased, and is ignored in the price; the scarcer 2d block is superb, despite a slightly indistinct cancel. Cat. \$ 160 as mint	£35.00
(i)	As above. Two different illustrated F.D.C.	£1.5C
(j)	As above. F.D.C. with Pakuranga Health Camp postmark	£5.00
(k)	As above. Advertising presentation card, printed by Harrison and Sons Ltd., with the pair of 1950 Health stamps mounted centrally. Most attractive	£15.00
919(a)	1951 "Yachting" (T23a/b). Three 1½d plate blocks of 4, both 2d plate blocks of 4, and a sheet value block of each value. The seven blocks	£10.00
(b)	As above. Unhinged copy of the 2d watermark inverted (T23bZ). Scarce ..	£37.50
(c)	As above. Block of four of each value, used with first day cancels	£1.50
(d)	As above. Four different illustrated first day covers	£3.00
(e)	As above. Two different illustrated F.D.C.'s, posted at Glenelg and Pakuranga Health Camps	£10.00
920(a)	1952 "Charles and Anne" (T24a/b). Two "Maximum" cards, one of Anne with 1½d stamp, the other of Charles with 2d stamp, both cancelled at Ferry Road	£5.00
(b)	As above. Plate block of 6 and sheet value block of 4 of each value. The four blocks	£5.00
(c)	As above. Block of 4 of each value with first day cancel	£1.50
(d)	As above. Advertising presentation card printed by Harrison and Sons Ltd. (similar to lot 918(k)). Nice	£15.00
(e)	As above. Four different illustrated first day covers	£3.00
(f)	As above. Two matching illustrated F.D.C.'s; one is a white envelope, the other cream	£1.50
(g)	As above. Similar white and cream illustrated F.D.C.'s posted at Glenelg and Pakuranga Health Camps	£10.00

921(a)	1953 "Guides and Scouts" (T25a/b). 1½d marginal block of 4 with the R2/10 "flaw on leg" variety (T25aZ)	£4.00
(b)	As above. Block of 4 of each value, first day cancels	£1.50
(c)	As above. Three different illustrated first day covers	£2.25
(d)	As above. Two F.D.C.'s posted at Glenelg and Pakuranga Health Camps	£10.00
922(a)	1954 Mts Aspiring and Everest. (T26a/b). Plate and sheet value block of 4 of each value. The four blocks	£4.00
(b)	As above. Block of 4 of each value, first day cancels	£1.50
(c)	As above. One plate block of 4 stamps of each value, used with first day cancels	£7.50
(d)	As above. 1½d used block of 4, Glenelg Health Camp cancel	£1.50
(e)	As above. 1939 Muir & Moodie unused postcard featuring Mount Aspiring (No. 126)	£3.50
(f)	As above. Two different illustrated first day covers	£1.50
(g)	As above. Illustrated F.D.C. posted at Glenelg Health Camp	£5.00
(h)	As above. Similar F.D.C. but posted at Otaki Health Camp (1954 was the first year of opening of this Camp on a regular basis — it had been opened only twice previously, in 1941 and 1945)	£7.50

1960 PICTORIALS

A fine mixed bag of variety offers from a recently acquired collection. All stamps are mint (many unhinged), with the exception of just two lots. Full annotation provided where necessary.

Chambon Perfs.

925(a)	½d — 8d. Set of seven blocks of six (½d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 8d) on the original 'ordinary' paper, and all showing clear Chambon perf. characteristics	£25.00
(b)	As above. Four used blocks of 6 (½d, 1d, 2d, 3d) on the original paper. Unusual thus	£12.50
(c)	As above. Sheet value block of 4 of the 1d (O2a) with 'Chambon' characteristics	£2.50
(d)	As above. 'Chambon' block of six 1d stamps on chalky paper (O2c). Scarce ...	£9.00
(e)	As above. 'Chambon' sheet value block of 6 of the 3d (O5a)	£3.50
(f)	As above. 3d (O5a) block of 10 stamps (2 x 5) showing narrow, wide, narrow pin placements. Nice!	£7.50

- (g) **As above.** Three stapled selvage booklet panes (½d, 1d, 3d) all showing Chambon characteristics. Unusual £12.50

Varieties.

- 926(a) ½d Manuka.** (O1a). Three marginal blocks, showing all three listed plate varieties (OV1a,b,c). 20 stamps £9.50
- (b) **As above.** Two single stamps, one with blue misplaced upwards, the other with green misplaced upwards. Nice, cheap colour shift pair £7.50
- 927(a) 1d Karaka.** Four blocks, all on the original ordinary paper (O2a), including R2/5, 10/9, 12/3 flaw (OV2c) and 20/1 (OV2a) varieties — all mentioned in the N.Z. Handbook, Vol. 6. 26 stamps £11.50
- (b) **As above.** Single O2a stamp, small upward shift of the berries £3.75
- (c) **As above.** 1d booklet pane of six stamps (stapled selvage), with green flaws on lower leaf (stamp 2) £5.00
- (d) **As above.** Three blocks on the later chalk surfaced paper (O2c), including R6/11, 10/9 and 12/3 retouch (OV2d) — again all in Vol. 6. Twenty one stamps £7.50
- 928(a) 2d Kaka Beak** (O3a). Collection of 12 variety blocks including numerous plate varieties, most of which are mentioned in Vol. 6 (OV3a–f listed in the C.P. Catalogue are amongst those present). 102 stamps. Superb variety collection £65.00
- (b) **As above.** Plate (2231) block of 8 stamps in the scarcer red shade £7.50
- 929(a) 2½d Titoki** (O4a). Collection of 8 variety blocks including many Vol. 6 listed varieties. 82 stamps £40.00
- (b) **As above.** Two sheet value blocks of four, with and without the R2/11 variety £3.00
- (c) **As above.** Two plate blocks of 12, from the first and second plate 1A cylinders £7.50
- (d) **As above.** Two further plate blocks of 12, but from the first and second plate 1B cylinders £7.50
- (e) **As above.** The scarcer pale yellow green shade, in plate block of 12 stamps. Plate nos. 4A3A or 4B3B, each £17.50
- (f) **As above.** Marginal block of 6 with black doctor blade flaw running horizontally across two stamps £12.50
- (g) **As above.** Two different copies of the “fruit salad” variety, one with green misplaced downwards, the other with green shifted upwards £7.50

(to be continued)