

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

Q.E. 1/-, Centre Die 1B. Like the chalky paper 4d of the 1960 Pictorial issue, this was one of the very few modern items which apparently escaped the general notice of collectors when it was issued. As a result, both of these stamps are very considerably scarcer in mint condition than in used.

In the case of the chalky 4d, there was at least some justification for the 'lapse' on the part of the philatelic sleuths. The difference was solely one of paper, the plate number concerned (2333) having previously appeared in printings on the original paper. Had the change of paper coincided with new plate numbers, the natural demand for plate blocks would have ensured the preservation of mint copies in relatively much greater numbers. That is not to say that this 4d would ever have been a common stamp. Although all the evidence is that supplies were in fact quite widely distributed, the incidence of used copies themselves suggests that quantities sold were actually small.

The circumstances surrounding the Die 1B 1/- were somewhat different, and less easy to find a satisfactory answer for. As in the chalky 4d, the evidence of used copies points to a fairly general distribution of supplies to post offices throughout New Zealand, while their **relative** scarcity infers that total sales were much lower than would normally be expected. Yet in this instance, completely new plates were involved. Centre plates 3A and 3B were unique to the Die 1B stamps, and Die 1B stamps were unique to those plate numbers. Given those facts, plate blocks known to have been preserved appear to be extraordinarily few in number. Such blocks are rare — I would estimate that those extant could certainly be counted only in tens, rather than in the hundreds or perhaps even thousands that one might have anticipated. All the more surprising since, even if a small total printing is assumed, it is on record that "a quantity of sheets from Centre Plate 3 was in the bulk supply remaining unsold when the

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stamp was withdrawn". ('The Postage Stamps of New Zealand', Volume 4, page 159). The conclusion has to be that the sheets among those finally withdrawn were never made available for public sale. The only other explanation would be a quite inconceivable one — an appalling oversight by what was at the time a considerable and active collecting public, keenly interested in what had proved to be (and incidentally remains) an attractive issue for those with a taste for the finer points of philately.

Scarce as the mint Die 1B 1/- is, there is one particular form in which it is a pearl almost beyond price. That is, in counter coil pair. Volume 4 (on page 177) states: "A few sheets of the 1/- from centre plate 3 were made up into rolls. Se-tenant pairs are found with one stamp from centre plate 2 and the other from centre plate 3" Behind this prosaic and slightly vague piece of information in fact lies one of the greatest rarities of the entire Q.E. issue, listed in the C.P. Catalogue as NC7b(Z). It is certain that at least two Die 1B sheets went into the making of counter rolls. But I have a strong hunch, based on over twenty years constant observation, that not "a few" but **only** those two sheets were ever used thus. My reasons? Firstly, in all that time, I have noted only about half a dozen pairs of this variety, and even that meagre tally may well be inflated by the same pair turning up more than once. Moreover, and more significantly, all of those pairs have been assignable to one of two specific positions in a roll, and are therefore consistent with the "two-sheets-only" hypothesis. In every case, the Die 1B stamp was the upper one of the pair; one pair had section no. 19, all others section no. 3. Without going into minute detail of the process of manufacture of these coils here, and assuming the inclusion of only two Die 1B sheets as postulated, a maximum of ten of each of the following items could possibly exist:

- (a) Coil pair, section no. 3, Die 1B over Die 1A
- (b) Coil pair, section no. 4, Die 1A over Die 1B
- (c) Coil pair, section no. 19, Die 1B over Die 1A
- (d) Wrapper (starter) paper, with Die 1B stamp(s) attached — almost certainly with rubber-stamp date April or May 1958.

In addition, there could be a maximum of twenty vertical pairs of Die 1B stamps with butted (lapped) joins, from the centres of the strips (of 16 stamps each) which formed the sections between numbered joins.

While it is possible that all of the items not yet accounted for from the above list may be lost for ever, readers are advised to look out for any examples. Unless they are already in specialised collections, any still extant will almost certainly be lying unrecognised for the gems that they are.

A set of the magnificent N.Z. Handbooks, consisting of Volumes 1 — 6 and the matching Lee '1d Universal' monograph. For anyone who acquired the recently published Volume 7 of the same series, a marvellous opportunity to complete the finest of philatelic libraries in one fell swoop. Volume 1 shows slight signs of its age inside the back cover, otherwise condition is immaculate throughout. Price, post paid

SECOND PICTORIAL VARIETIES

A continuation of the listing commenced last month.

- | | | |
|----------------|---|---------|
| 1102 | 3d Maori Girl. Multiple watermark inverted (L6bZ). Available in three forms: | |
| | (i) Unhinged mint | £35.00 |
| | (ii) Lightly hinged mint | £20.00 |
| | (iii) Finest used | £15.00 |
| 1103(a) | 4d Mitre Peak. Corner block of 6 including the three clear retouches to the I of MITRE on R7/8, 7/10 and 8/10 ('Long I', 'Doubled I' and 'Thick I' respectively). On the original, registered watermark issue (in this block, two stamps have letters wmk.). Finest mint. The block (LV7a) | £20.00 |
| | (b) As above. Similar block from the first multiple wmk. issue (L7b) — but with a difference. This block shows the R7/8 and 8/10 varieties, but no sign at all of the doubled I on R7/10. Something of a mystery (we have seen one other such block), for a second block included, from the same issue, shows all three retouches. The interesting set of two blocks | £22.50 |
| | (c) As above. Set of three mint single stamps (all L7b) showing the R7/8, 7/10 and 8/10 retouches | £7.50 |
| | (d) As above. R3/8 (unnumbered centre plate) is an excellent example of a double re-entry, with clear trebling of parts of the design, particularly the right hand side of the mountain, where the trebling is complete. We can offer a mint or used single (L7b) showing this unusual variety, with a normal for comparison. Please state whether mint or used is required. Each | £7.50 |
| | (e) As above. L7b. Plate block of 4 (pl. no. 1) with variety Watermark Inverted. Minor selvage hinge-thin, stamps all fine (three unhinged) | £32.50 |
| | (f) As above. Used copy on coarse paper, with variety Watermark Inverted (L7eY). A scarce one! | £40.00 |
| 1104(a) | 5d Swordfish. Marginal strip of three, perf. 12½, fine paper (L8d), with eight-dot Waterlow shift marking in selvage. A scarce and desirable piece (stamps alone now Cat. \$ 180) | £87.50 |
| | (b) As above. Counter coil pair, with rubber-stamped no. 10 in red (L8fZ). Only five values of this Pictorial series were issued in counter coils (in the earliest days of the introduction of these items to post office counters), and coil pairs of any of these are rare | £125.00 |
| 1105 | 6d Harvesting. Unhinged mint (marginal) copy of the 1936 issue with variety Watermark Inverted (L9bZ) | £20.00 |
| 1106(a) | 8d Tuatara. The R13/10 'Broken 8' variety is found only on plate 3 printings perf. 12½ and 14x14½. Here offered in unhinged mint marginal pair with a normal stamp, perf. 12½ | £8.50 |
| | (b) As above. Unhinged mint copy, perf. 14x13½, with variety Watermark Sideways Inverted (L10bZ) | £12.50 |

1107(a)	9d Maori Panel. Bottom marginal block of 4, upright wmk. (L11c), with one grey bar in selvage. Finest mint	£60.00
(b)	As above. Bottom left corner block, same issue, but with two selvage bars. Superfine	£72.50
(c)	As above. Finest mint copy with variety Watermark Inverted (L11cZ)	£17.50
1108	9d Reduced Design. Bottom marginal blocks of 4, multiple watermark (L11d) with (i) one thick bar and (ii) two bars, one thick, one thin, in selvage. The two blocks, mint unhinged	£16.50
1109	1/- Tui. Unhinged mint copy, 1936 issue, with variety Watermark Inverted. Scarcer than its current rating would suggest	£20.00
1110(a)	2/- Capt. Cook Landing. Marginal block of 4, final issue (L13g), with plate no. 1, and including the R9/2 Retouch to Hills (and to the water below and the sky above). R10/3, the bottom right stamp in the block, is an example of a coincident re-entry — although there is no sign of doubling of the design, the whole impression is notably heavier and darker than its companions. The block, unhinged mint	£47.50
(b)	As above. The R1/4 COQK flaw is one of N.Z.'s best known varieties. Despite the attention given to plate 1 during its lifetime, this flaw remained untouched, and can thus be found throughout all printings — a fact demonstrated by the superb mint set of seven stamps here offered, comprised of one copy each of L13a — L13g, all with the COQK flaw. Cat. \$ 490, one set only available	£175.00
(c)	As above. Individual examples showing the COQK variety (all marginal, stamp unhinged mint) are available as follows:	
	(i) On L13b	£40.00
	(ii) On L13c	£22.50
	(iii) On L13f	£15.00
(d)	As above. Top marginal strip of 3 (L13c), including R1/4 'COQK' and R1/6 'Cocked Hat' variety — the latter appeared after the plate went to press, and occurs only on L13c, having been subsequently retouched. Single light selvage hinge, all stamps mint unhinged. A scarce strip	£77.50
(e)	As above. Fine mint copy of the first issue with variety Watermark Inverted (L13aZ)	£25.00
(f)	As above. Same variety, but finest used	£15.00
1111(a)	3/- Mt. Egmont. Positional block of 4 on coarse paper in the scarcer perf. 13¼x13½ (L14f), including R9/4 without re-entry. In this block the bottom selvage is wider than normal, and shows a trace of the inverted-and-reversed centre plate 'job number' 1300—1. A superb block, mint unhinged	£60.00
(b)	As above. Matching block in the commoner coarse paper perf. 14¼x13½, but in a contrasting shade (bistre brown frame), and including R9/4 with the big re-entry (LV14L). Finest mint	£40.00

- (c) **As above.** Marginal copy of the first multiple watermark issue with variety Watermark Inverted (L14dZ). Finest mint £13.50
- (d) **As above.** Last but by no means least, a mint example of the rare experimental wet printing with watermark inverted-and-reversed (L14c). Fresh, well-centred for this issue, and **very** lightly hinged £275.00

1959 – 1961 HEALTHS

- 1126(a) 1959 Tete and Poaka (T31a/b).** Imprint/plate block of 6 stamps for each value £2.50
- (b) **As above.** Sheet value block of 4 for each value. The 3d block includes the R2/9 retouch (T31bX) £4.00
- (c) **As above.** Two used blocks of 4, first day cancels £2.50
- (d) **As above.** 2d marginal block of 10, including the fine R5/6 wing retouch (T31aZ) £11.50
- (e) **As above.** 3d marginal strip of 4 with R1/4 retouch (mentioned in Volume 4 of the N.Z. Handbook) £5.00
- (f) **As above.** 3d watermark inverted variety (T31bY). Mint, catalogued at \$40 and offered at £10.00
- (g) **As above.** The same inverted wmk. variety, but marginal block of 4 £40.00
- (h) **As above.** One of each miniature sheet (S.G. MS 777c) £9.50
- (i) **As above.** 2d mini sheet with the 'Black-eyed Gull' variety on stamp no. 4 . £7.50
- (j) **As above.** Two 3d mini sheets, one with perfs. running through the left margin, the other without £12.00
- (k) **As above.** Official Health Camps Federation F.D.C. £1.00
- (l) **As above.** Three illustrated F.D.C.'s, posted at Pakuranga, Glenelg and Otaki Health Camps £15.00
- 1127(a) 1960 Kotare and Kereru (T32a/b).** Imprint/plate blocks and sheet value blocks complete. The four blocks of 4 £7.00
- (b) **As above.** Set of two used blocks of 4 £3.00
- (c) **As above.** Official Health Camp Federation F.D.C. £1.25
- (d) **As above.** Similar official cover, posted at Glenelg Health Camp £5.00
- (e) **As above.** O.H.M.S. registered plain cover, to New Mexico, franked with three sets of the 1960 Health stamps £7.50

(f) Stamps from Miniature Sheets, perf. 11½x11 (T32c/d).	
(i) Mint set of two stamps (Cat. \$ 15)	£3.00
(ii) Miniature sheet of each value (S.G. MS 804b)	£24.00
(iii) Superb (and we really do mean superb) used single stamps	£5.50
(iv) Similar superb condition, but used blocks of 4	£20.00

1128(a) 1961 Kotuku and Karearea (T33a/b). Imprint/plate block and sheet value block of each value. The four blocks of 4	£5.25
(b) As above. Imprint/plate block of each value, with erroneous perfs. in left selvage	£5.00
(c) As above. Two used blocks of 4, one each value	£3.00
(d) As above. Miniature sheet each value (S.G. MS 807a)	£12.50
(e) As above. O.H.M.S. registered plain cover, to New Mexico, with strip of 4 of each value, posted on first day of issue	£7.50
(f) As above. Complete set of six official F.D.C.'s, posted at the six Health Camps (Glenelg, Maunu, Otaki, Gisborne, Roxburgh, Pakuranga)	£30.00

1953-61 Q.E. DEFINITIVES

A miscellany of quality offers, **all unhinged mint**, from Section N (and the relevant part of Booklet Section W) in the C.P. Catalogue.

Booklets

1131 Complete Set of five 4/- booklets (W7a-d, plus an example from the small printing of Sept. 1955, readily identifiable from the earlier W7a booklet by the pane of airmail etiquettes added to the contents, and by the altered 'Crompton' and 'BP' advertisements). The set of five booklets, random mixture of upright and inverted watermark panes. Cat. \$ 260	£72.50
1132 Sept. 1955 Booklet. The scarcer printing described above. In this example, both 1d panes have upright wmk., both 3d panes inverted	£25.00
1133 May 1956 Booklet (W7b). The only issue containing stamps of both the original and redrawn designs (1d 'small figures' and 3d 'large figures'). We can offer examples in three forms: (i) all panes wmk. upright; (ii) 1d panes wmk. upright, 3d panes wmk. inv.; (iii) 1d panes wmk. inv., 3d panes wmk. upright. All at the same price, each booklet, Cat. \$ 45	£12.50
1134 Sept. 1957 Booklet (W7c). All panes redrawn designs on coarse paper. Available in two forms: (i) 1d panes wmk. upright, 3d panes wmk. inv.; (ii) all panes wmk. inv. Cat. \$ 60, either booklet	£16.50
1135 June 1959 Booklet (W7d). All panes redrawn designs on thick white paper. In three forms: (i) all panes wmk. upright; (ii) 1d panes wmk. inv., 3d panes wmk. upright; (iii) one 1d pane wmk. upright, all other panes wmk. inv. Each booklet, Cat. \$ 75	£22.50

Plate/Imprint Blocks (all in blocks of 6 or 4 as listed in C.P., except where otherwise indicated)

1136	½d Grey (N1a). Plate no. 1	£1.50
1137	1d Orange (N2a). Plate nos. 5 or 31, each block	£1.50
1138(a)	1½d Lake Brown (N3a). Plate nos. 12, 13 or 14, each block	£2.25
	(b) As above. Three blocks, all plate no. 12, in the listed shades of deep lake-brown, brown lake and rosy lake. A delightful set!	£10.00
1139(a)	2d Myrtle-Green (N4a). Plate nos. 15, 16, 17 and 18, complete	£8.00
	(b) As above. Plate nos. 16, 17 or 18, each block	£2.25
	(c) As above. Plate no. 17 with early but clear plate crack below. Selvedge crease	£12.50
	(d) As above. Shades set in plate blocks — deep green (pl. 17), green (pl. 18), paler green (pl. 16). Lovely!	£10.00
1140(a)	3d Vermilion (N5a). Plate nos. 3, 4, 7, 8, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27 or 29, each block	£2.25
	(b) As above. Plate no. 33 (stamps are Die 1b, of course)	£15.00
	(c) As above. Set of three superb shades in plate blocks — pale vermillion (pl. 4), vermillion (pl. 3) and deep bright vermillion (pl. 21)	£10.00
	(d) As above. Three plate blocks (of 4 stamps each), all pl. no. 4, printed on quite dramatically different grades of paper, ranging from thick opaque to translucent near pelure. For the papers buff, c'est magnifique!	£10.00
1141(a)	4d Ultramarine (N6a). Plate nos. 9 or 19, each block	£3.00
	(b) As above. Set of two plate blocks (both pl. no. 9) in the listed shades of bright and deep ultramarine	£6.50
1142(a)	6d Purple (N7a). Plate no. 6	£5.00
	(b) As above. Set of two plate blocks (of 4 stamps each), in deep and bright purple respectively	£7.50
1143(a)	8d Rose-Carmine (N8a). Plate no. 20	£5.00
	(b) As above. Plate nos. 10 and 20, a selected pair of blocks in nicely contrasting shades	£10.00
1144(a)	9d Brown/Green (N9a). A complete set of four plate blocks (1A1A, 1B1B, 1A2A, 1B2B), plus an imprint block, plus a sheet value block ('£6'). Six blocks, Cat. \$ 49+	£15.00

(b) As above. Plate nos. 1A2A, 1B2B or imprint. Each block	£3.75
(c) As above. Plate nos. 1A2A and 1B2B in combined plate/imprint blocks of 12 stamps each. Desirable in this form	£15.00
1145(a) 1/- Black/Carmine (N10a). Complete set of five plate blocks as listed (including both selvedge forms of 1A2A) plus an imprint block, plus two sheet value blocks ('8£' and '£8'). A superb set of eight blocks, Cat. \$ 66+	£20.00
(b) As above. Plate 1A2A with engine-turned design on side selvedge	£4.50
(c) As above. Plates 1A2A (engine turned selvedge design) and 1B2B, in combined plate/imprint blocks of 12 stamps each. The two blocks	£16.50
1146(a) 1/6d Black/Ultramarine (N11a). Four plates complete as listed, plus imprint and sheet value blocks. The set of six blocks, Cat. \$ 51+	£15.00
(b) As above. Plate nos. 1A2A or 1B2B, each block	£3.75
(c) As above. Plate nos. 1A2A and 1B2B in combined plate/imprint blocks of 12. The pair of blocks	£15.00
1147(a) 1/9d Black/Orange, Original Paper (N12a). Set of four blocks, including the two listed plates, imprint and sheet value blocks. Cat. \$ 125+, superb value at	£35.00
(b) As above. Plate nos. 1A2A or 1B2B, each block	£11.00
(c) As above. The same two plates, but in combined imprint/plate blocks of 12. The two blocks. Cat. \$ 180	£57.50
1148(a) 1/9d Thick White Paper (N12b). Set of four blocks, exactly matching lot 1147 (a) above	£35.00
(b) As above. Plate nos. 1A2A and 1B2B in combined plate/imprint blocks of 12 stamps each. The set of two blocks	£57.50

(to be continued)

RECENT ISSUES

1989 Christmas (issued 13/9/89), 35c, 65c, 80c, \$ 1.

Mint set of 4 stamps	£1.95
Set of 4 imprint blocks, 6 stamps per block, one block each value	£13.35
Official illustrated F.D.C. (Wanganui pmk.)	£2.20
Booklet containing a pane of 10 x 35c Christmas stamps, attached by the top or bottom selvedge, each	£3.15

1989 Year Pack, including all special issues from 1988 Heritage to 1989 Christmas. 37 stamps housed in an attractive decorative folder, the whole being protected by a slip-in plastic wallet (post paid)

£21.00