

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

1969 Capt. Cook Bicentenary. The published information on the plate numbers of this issue needs some revision. For the production of each of the four values of the set, four plates were required — one for each of the three colours used, plus an additional colourless plate to effect the 'cameo' embossing of the portrait on each stamp.

"The Postage Stamps of New Zealand", Volume 6, records that sheets were issued "with the plate number **1A1A1A1A** in each value under row 10, no. 3".

The C.P. Catalogue lists the plate numbers of each value as **1A1A1A**, but expands on this in a footnote stating: "Plate blocks of the 4c, 6c and 18c have been recorded with a colourless embossed Plate Number in addition to the normal numbers. But the 4c, 6c and 28c have been recorded without any trace of a colourless number".

My own notes accord with the information given in our Catalogue. However, recent close examination of a quantity of plate blocks of all values has revealed the following:

- 28c — Invariably three coloured 1As only, in blue, red and grey respectively. No sign of any colourless embossed plate number.
- 18c — Invariably four 1As, colourless (embossed), black, green and purple-brown respectively.
- 6c — Invariably three coloured 1As only, in green, purple-brown and black respectively. No sign of any colourless embossed plate number.
- 4c — This value is particularly interesting. At first sight, only three coloured 1As, in red, black and blue respectively, the blue 1A being crudely hand-drawn, and placed considerably farther to the right than the rightmost plate number in any of the other three values. But in every block examined a fourth 1A was detectable under magnification. This one was colourless and embossed, fractionally to the right of, but almost coincident with, the roughly drawn blue number. It seems probable that the blue number was originally omitted from the relevant plate, and when the error was noticed, it was inserted in the wrong position on that plate. The very close proximity of the two numbers on the printed sheet makes the

colourless one difficult to pick up, and this may explain the record of a 4c plate block apparently without the colourless number.

The 6c and 28c still remain something of a mystery, though. Confirmation of either or both of these **with** a colourless embossed plate number would be interesting.

1946 Peace 8d. Following upon my brief December 1989 note (q.v.) recording a third state of the imprint block, to be added to the two already listed, Dr. A.F. Dove of Nottinghamshire has established with reasonable certainty, from material in his collection, that:

- (i) Blocks showing the red flaws on R8/8 and/or R8/9 are from sheets printed from frame plate 42752.
- (ii) All blocks from this frame plate, with or without the above-mentioned flaws, show a smaller, but constant red flaw in the upper part of the Z of ZEALAND, and a short horizontal red line some 3½mm above the L of London in the imprint.
- (iii) Blocks printed from the other frame plate (42855) used for this value show **none** of the flaws mentioned.

Thus it is possible to find not three, but **four** different states of the 8d imprint block. Thanks, Dr. Dove, for pointing this out.

Did You Know? That the Perkins, Bacon plate numbered 5, used for the 1907–08 reduced 6d Kiwi, was originally numbered 1? In the “Proofs and Essays” chapter of the N.Z. Handbook, Volume 1 (page 574), the listing of black plate proofs on paper wmk’d PERKINS BACON & CO LTD LONDON includes “6d (plate 1, later renumbered 5)”. This listing was nicely confirmed by a large plate block of these proofs offered in the recent ‘Midas’ auction sale at Sotheby’s, with the original plate number. We have a plate block of the issued stamps, with plate no. 5, of course (offered elsewhere in this Bulletin), and examination under a glass reveals faint traces of the foot of the original number. A re-entry with a difference, one might say — not unlike the later and well-known R1/6 and 4/10 re-entries on plate 20 of the 4d K.G.V.

Such confusion might well have arisen as a result of internal uncertainty over the sequential plate numbering system adopted by Perkins, Bacon, which commenced with no. 1 (for the first of the four 1907–08 ½d Mt. Cook plates), and ran in an unbroken series through to no. 44 (the last of the George V plates made by that company). The plates for the reduced 6d Kiwi followed immediately after the four made for the ½d Mt. Cook, and I suggest that at this early stage, the platemaker was under the mistaken impression that, from a numbering point of view, plates for each new value were to be treated in isolation. One wonders, indeed, if there was a similar occurrence with plate no. 6 (the second 6d plate). Certainly there are numerous extraneous marks in and around the figure as it appears on the printed sheet. Could this plate have been originally numbered 2, perhaps?

1989 Health Miniature Sheets. Some of these were overprinted in black to commemorate the World Stamp Expo ‘89, held at Washington, U.S.A. from Nov. 17 – Dec. 3. We have seen one example with **albino** overprint. Since this appears in an otherwise unprinted area of the top selvedge, the colourless print is readily visible — the Exhibition Logo (consisting of a globe and pigeons motif) stands out particularly clearly.

COVERS MISCELLANY

- 201** **1875 Q.V. Cover**, franked with a 2d First Sideface adhesive on Large-Star wmk paper (C2c), tied by the Dunedin duplex cancel of July 18th. Superb contemporary usage of this provisional stamp, and a rare cover £160.00

202 **1895 ½d Second Sideface Cover**, bearing a block of 4 of the ½d perf. 12 x 11½ (D1a), dated 13th April, just 12 days after the stamps were issued. Backstamped with an R.P.O.-C coin type cancel. We can't recall ever having seen a D1a used block of 4 before, let alone one on cover. Rare! Stamps alone Cat. \$500 ... £250.00

- 203** **R.M.M.S. Aorangi**. Built in 1924/5, this was the largest and fastest diesel-engined passenger and mail liner afloat at the time. It was used on the N.Z. — Vancouver service, and all of the following covers were posted on board.
- (i) **1925 cover**, addressed to London, with two N.Z. 1d Meter Marks, each cancelled by good strikes of the Marine Post Office/ RMMS AORANGI distinctive datestamp. Also endorsed in manuscript "per Aorangi" £30.00
 - (ii) **1927 cover**, addressed to New York and backstamped Auckland 29/8/27, endorsed "RMS Aorangi" and "Late Fee" the Australian adhesives, totalling 4d, cancelled by a PACKET BOAT cancellation in a double-lined box (known to have been used on the Aorangi) .. £30.00
 - (iii) **1930 cover**, addressed to England, endorsed "RMS Aorangi", the Australian adhesive being cancelled by the circular Aorangi Marine P.O. cancel (superb strike), and a different PACKET BOAT cancel (in a single-lined box), also known to have been used on the Aorangi £35.00
 - (iv) **20 May 1938 cover** to England, the N.Z. adhesives cancelled by the distinctive obliterator (wavy lines inside a circle) used to cancel covers when posted at sea from 1935 onwards. Alongside is a superb strike of the Aorangi Marine P.O. cancel. This cover was posted on the final sailing of the Aorangi, leaving N.Z. for Vancouver on the 17th May £35.00

- 204** **1906 Christchurch Exhibition Cover**. ½d, 1d, 3d (S1a — 3a) on plain cover, each stamp tied by the "EXHIBITION CHRISTCHURCH" c.d.s. of 15th NOV 1906 — **two days before the 6d value was issued** (incidentally the C of Christchurch in the cancellation is in its original undamaged state).
 An attractive cover — addressed to H.W. Bishop, Stipendiary Magistrate, Christchurch — and of considerable rarity £350.00
 (*Note: We handled this same cover 10 years ago, and we haven't seen another similar one since.*)

- 205** **1940 Centennial F.D.C.** The 12 values released on 2nd Jan 1940 on one plain registered cover to the U.S.A. (most centennial F.D.C.'s seen bear only two stamps, hence 6 covers would be needed to show a set) £27.50
- 206** **1965 Parliamentary Conference F.D.C.'s** (S100 — 102). Set of three matching illustrated covers, each with one adhesive, and featuring the "Beehive" additions proposed to the Parliament Buildings (although obviously proposed in 1965, the foundations were not laid until 1970, and the building wasn't opened until 1977) £20.00
- 207** **1969 Capt. Cook m/s on F.D.C.** (SM122 — 5). Not often seen nowadays £42.50

208	1930 Health F.D.C. (T2a). Clean cover, with light 29/10/30 marking. Addressed to Takatoka and backstamped on 1st NOV arrival. Nice!	£137.50
209	1932 Health F.D.C. (T4a). In a word, perfection!	£125.00
210	Airmail Photographs. Two copies of early air photos (i) Capt. Dickson together with passengers before departing for Ashburton Feb. 1920 (6" x 4"); (ii) Pilot Bolt delivering the mail to the postmaster at Russell during the April 1920 Auckland to Awanui flight (6" x 8")	£15.00
211	Unofficial Q.E. Air Flights. A superb series of modern covers, obviously organised by an 'airs' enthusiast, but the like of which are seldom seen. Needless to say only one of each available:	
	(i) 1957 Cover carried on the R.N.Z.A.F. Vampire Jet Flight from Palmerston North to Christchurch on the 16th January (typed message, together with "FLOWN ON/R.N.Z.A.F. VAMPIRE 25" cachet, and pilot signature), and later posted to the U.S.A.	£22.50
	(ii) 1957 Cover , with typed message, carried on the R.A.F. Transport command No 216 Squadron Comet Flight, from Lyneham to N.Z. on 2nd May, and pilot signed. The cover later posted back to the U.K. on 10th May	£22.50
	(iii) 1965 Air Cover , with typed message, flown on the First Historic Delivery Flight of Air New Zealand D.C.8 from California to N.Z. on July 20th, and signed by the Captain. The cover then posted back to the U.S.A.	£22.50
	(iv) 1968 Air Cover , with typed message "Commemorating the visit to Wellington N.Z. of the Hon. George Thomson, Commonwealth Secretary, to attend the annual S.E.A.T.O. Conference at Ministerial Level". Flown from London to Wellington on 2nd April, and signed by the secretary to Mr. Thomson. The cover then posted to the U.S.A.	£22.50
	(v) 1968 Air Cover , with typed message, Royal Flight of H.R.H. Prince Philip's visit to N.Z. in June, pilot signed, and later posted to U.S.A. .	£22.50
	(vi) 1968 Air Covers , with typed message commemorating the delivery flight of the Boeing 737 from Seattle to N.Z., and signed by the delivery Captain. Cover later posted to U.S.A.	£22.50
	(vii) 1968 Two Air Covers , with typed messages of the visit of Prime Minister Keith Holyoake to Seoul South Korea, both covers signed by Mr. Holyoake , and later posted to U.S.A.	£50.00
212	1965 Air Covers. Two matching covers of the QANTAS Boeing 707 Sydney — Christchurch flight (10 APR 1965) and the return leg on the 11th, together with two photographs of the plane and crew	£17.50

1907 – 08 PERKINS, BACON PLATE BLOCKS

A rare listing — all items offered are blocks of 4, with full corner selvage and plate number.

213(a)	½d Mt. Cook, Perf. 14 x 12½ – 13¼ (F5b). Plate no. 1. Superb mint unhinged	£325.00
(b)	As above. Plate no. 2, in the same exceptionally fine condition	£325.00
(c)	As above. Plate no. 3. Minor closed tear high in the side selvage, well clear of stamps and plate marking — otherwise the equal of the previous two blocks in all respects	£225.00
214(a)	6d Kiwi Reduced Design, Perf. 14 x 15 (E15c). Plate no. 5. Includes the retouches on R1/1 and 2/1 (in common with others who have examined the evidence, we cannot agree with the statement made in Volume 1 of the N.Z. Handbook that R1/1 is a re-entry. The downward extension of the left vertical frame is clearly the result of retouching to this area). A superb block — very lightly hinged in selvage only	£345.00
(b)	As above. Plate no. 6. R1/1 in this block does show minor re-entry doubling, at left centre (curiously not mentioned in the Handbooks). Minute insignificant ink mark on lower right stamp — we mention this only for the sake of accuracy, for the block is a beautiful one, again light selvage hinge only! ..	£300.00
215	1/- Reduced Design (E10). Plate no. 8, in a magnificent corner block of 4 of the imperf. black plate proofs. Since these were printed with the watermark inverted, the dandy roll number (3 in this case), which normally appeared in the extreme bottom right corner of sheets, stands out loud and clear to the left of the plate number. The proof plate block must be incalculably scarcer than plate blocks of the issued stamps (and these are scarce enough themselves)	£575.00

USED MISCELLANY

An unusual series of offers, in no particular order.

216(a)	Counter Coil Pair. Q.E. 3d coil pair, both stamps Die 1b, coil no. reading upwards (NC1d)	£27.50
(b)	As above. Another 3d coil pair, Die 1a and 1b set-tenant, coil no. reading downwards (NC1g). Scarce enough mint, used it could be a genuine rarity ..	£27.50
(c)	As above. Set of three Q.E. 9d coil pairs, (i) horizontal pair NC5a; (ii) two vertical pairs, coil nos. reading upwards and inverted (NC6a and NC7a). Nice, and highly unusual	£32.50
(d)	As above. Two 1960 Pictorial 2d counter coil pairs, black and red section nos. respectively (OC3a and b)	£12.50
(e)	As above. 1/9d bistre brown coil pairs with black and red section nos. (OC15a and b). Incidentally, both pairs have the R1/1 sky touch up (Cat. \$ 120 as mint pairs)	£37.50

- 217(a) **1982 Minerals.** Blocks of 4 of the early 1c and 2c perf. 12½ x 12½ printings (PB1a/2a). Good future holding, these £11.50
- (b) **As above.** Sheet value block (4 stamps) of the 2c value (PB2a) £12.50
- 218(a) **40c Blue Duck Bird Definitive.** Imprint blocks of 6 of the original issue (i.e. without any kiwi reprint marks), on both white and cream papers (PC2a/b) £10.00
- (b) **As above.** The same paper varieties, but in sheet value blocks £6.50
- 219 **\$ 4 Saddleback Bird Definitive,** on the 1986 cream paper (PC8b). Superb imprint block of 6 with the 1-kiwi reprint mark £25.00
- 220 **\$ 5 Takahe Bird Definitive (PC9a).** Two corner blocks — one of six stamps, with imprint markings and one of four with sheet value £45.00

N.B. ALL ITEMS OFFERED IN THIS LISTING ARE USED.

- 221 **1935 Chambers of Commerce (S20a — S24a).** Set of five corner plate blocks of four (½d Top Left, 1d Bottom Left, 2½d Top Left, 4d Bottom Left, 6d Top Left), each centrally cancelled with an Oct. 1936 c.d.s. A fine and unusual quintet of used plate blocks £57.50
- 222 **1953 Coronation (S59a — S63a).** Complete set of blocks of 4, each with first day (25/5/53) Wellington c.d.s. £15.00
- 223(a) **Postage Dues.** 1899—1900 First Type 3d (Y11a), fine used, single stamp showing clear double strike characteristics in the central ornaments (see footnote on Temp. Page Y1 of the C.P. Catalogue) £12.50
- (b) **As above.** 1904 Second Type ½d (Y15b) centre plate variety — small 'P' appears between 1 and D in the value (we can't find any mention of this variety in R.D. Samuel's excellent monograph on this issue). £12.50
- (c) **As above.** 1925 1d Cowan paper perf. 14 x 15 (Y16d), with the large R2/9 centre plate flaw mentioned on page 37 of the Samuel monograph £12.50
- (d) **As above.** 1937 1d, Wiggins Teape paper (Y16f). Superb block of 4, dated 29/11/37 £17.50
- (e) **As above.** 3d Third Type (Y22c), superb block of 4, dated 1/4/49 £17.50
- 224(a) **Comb Perf. Watermarked Arms.** This issue had a life of some 16 years (1968—1984). During that time there must have been a number of reprints. These two used \$ 4 copies (Z58b) give some indication of that, being in fine light and deep purple shades £12.50
- (b) **As above.** Horizontal pair of the \$ 4 value showing the missing perf. hole variety (which occurred briefly in 1983/4 and is found between stamps in vertical columns 9 and 10) £17.50
- (c) **As above.** Two \$ 6 stamps (Z59b), lovely green shades £12.50

(d)	As above. Two \$ 8 stamps (Z60b), fine blue shades	£20.00
(e)	As above. A horizontal pair of the \$ 8, showing the aforementioned missing perf. hole variety	£27.50
225(a)	Comb Perf. No Wmk. Arms. A complete set of all three values (\$ 6, \$ 8, \$ 10 — Z59c, Z60c, Z61c). The \$ 4 was not issued on this paper. Finest used	£27.50
(b)	As above. Copy of the \$ 8 value (Z60c) with the large R7/6 flaw to bottom frame line	£25.00
226	Perfins. Over 35 N.Z. stamps (and one G.B. stamp) all with N.Z. perfins. Obviously much duplication and completely unsorted by us	£25.00
227(a)	Christmas Stamps 1960—1984. Each year represented by a complete set of used blocks of 4. Additional blocks are 1962 yellow shade, 1963 wmk. side-inv., 1967 shade, 1969 no wmk., and 1970 2½c shade. No less than 61 blocks, one with a few splitting perfs., otherwise superb	£52.50
(b)	As above. 1961 Christmas single stamp with watermark sideways inverted (SC2aZ). Very scarce	£18.50

1970—1974 HEALTHS

All mint unless otherwise stated.

228(a)	1970 Healths (T42a/b). Complete set of imprint/plate blocks, plates 1A + 1B of both values. 24 stamps	£5.00
(b)	As above. 2½c stamp, phantom doubling variety (T42aZ). Now catalogued at \$ 50, offered at	£10.00
(c)	As above. The three listed 2½c panel shades of vermilion, scarlet and orange. Superb contrasts	£3.00
(d)	As above. Just one set of these three 2½c shades in blocks of 4	£11.50
(e)	As above. The same three 2½c shades, but in used blocks of 4. Lovely	£17.50
(f)	As above. Used block of 4 of both values	£3.00
(g)	As above. Three different illustrated F.D.C.'s	£5.00
(h)	As above. Set of six Health Camp Postmark covers	£24.00
229(a)	1971 Healths (T43a—c). Imprint/plate block of 6 stamps of each value	£8.50
(b)	As above. 3c stamp, with variety offset on back (T43aZ). Cat. \$ 50, offered at ..	£10.00
(c)	As above. Two 4c stamps, red and orange shades	£2.00
(d)	As above. Two 5c stamps, different skin shades of the nurse and baby. Nice	£4.50
(e)	As above. Used block of 4 of each value	£6.75

(f) As above. 3c miniature sheet with R2/1 flaw (between AL)	£10.00
(g) As above. 4c miniature sheet, also with a flaw on R2/1 (between WZ)	£10.00
(h) As above. 4c miniature sheet with a different and very prominent R2/1 flaw (by N of NEW)	£12.50
(i) As above. Two different illustrated F.D.C.'s	£4.50
(j) As above. Complete set of six Health Camp Postmark covers	£30.00
230(a) 1972 Health (T44a/b). Set of two imprint/plate blocks of 10, one each value ..	£2.75
(b) As above. Used block of 4 of both values	£3.00
(c) As above. Two different illustrated F.D.C.'s	£2.00
(d) As above. Complete set of six Health Camp Postmark covers	£24.00

RECENT ISSUES

1989 Christmas. This set has now been recorded with imprint blocks in two different forms:—

(i) Set of 4 imprint blocks, left selvage perforated	£13.35
(ii) Similar set of 4 imprint blocks, left selvage not perforated	£13.35

1989 Heritage, The Sea (issued 11/10/89). 40c, 60c, 65c, 80c, \$1, \$1.50.

Mint set of 6 stamps	£3.35
Set of 6 imprint blocks (6 stamps each block)	£22.50
Official illustrated F.D.C. (Wanganui pmk.)	£3.60

40c Brown Kiwi Definitives (PC13a). Reprints now available:—

(i) Imprint block of 6 stamps with 2-kiwi marks, white gum	£3.25
(ii) Similar 2-kiwi block, this time blue gum	£2.25
(iii) Imprint block of 6, with 3-kiwi marks (also blue gum)	£2.25

1989 Commonwealth Games (issued 8/11/89). 40c x 3 different, 50c, 65c, 80c, \$1, \$1.80.

Mint set of 8 stamps	£4.05
Set of 8 imprint blocks (6 stamps each block)	£28.50
Official illustrated F.D.C. (Wanganui pmk.)	£4.30
Presentation Pack — all 8 stamps housed in an attractive illustrated folder (post paid)	£6.65

1989 N.Z. ALBUM COLLECTION

The 6th in the series (first issued in 1984), and as with previous editions lavishly illustrated, and with much detail on designs, designers, printers, etc. All 1989 stamps and miniature sheets are included. (Post paid)

£32.50

Note: These are the only previous editions still in stock (all post paid)

1986	£40.00
1987	£37.50
1988	£37.50