

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

Adson — A New Slant on an Old Variety. By their very nature, the Second Sideface stamps with advertisements printed on the backs tend to be a complex series, producing often complex varieties. There were three quite distinct settings of the adverts, one of which (the First Setting) was inverted in relation to both the stamp designs and to the other two settings. Since within each setting there was a mixture of advertisements reading "upright" and "sideways", that of itself leads to considerable confusion.

One complication arises in connection with those scarce varieties described as having "advertisements inverted", that is to say stamps with First Setting adverts upright or sideways reading upwards (in relation to the designs on the front of the stamp), and Second or Third Setting adverts inverted or sideways reading downwards. Obviously such varieties are provable only when the advertisements concerned are positively assignable to a specific setting by reason, for instance, of the type of advertisement, or its colour. For example, a few block-type advertisements are peculiar to the First Setting; green or blue advertisements can only be Second Setting; "Poneke" advertisements must be Third Setting; and so on.

Although the aggregate number of proven copies with 'inverted adverts' recorded is small, sufficient have actually been identified to demonstrate conclusively that these varieties occurred in all three settings, and in the Second and Third Settings, that there were several different sheets, in all cases involving 240 examples, of course.

With the exception of one pair of 1d's with First Setting adverts "inverted", i.e. upright to the design — which as far as I am aware remains the only piece proving the variety in this setting — all examples noted to date **also have the watermark inverted**, and in many instances the advertisements, in addition to being inverted, are also notably misplaced.

It has been mooted in the past that these varieties most probably resulted from an **abnormal** set of circumstances in which it was found necessary to print the advertisements first, i.e. before the stamp designs. An extension of this proposition, it was suggested, would also explain the frequently poor registration of the adverts, since the printer would have no guide (in the form of the stamp designs on the other side of the paper) to accurate placement of the advertisements.

In my view, such an explanation is fundamentally flawed. Firstly, the available evidence points strongly to the conclusion that the printing of the advertisements before the stamp designs, far

from being an abnormal circumstance, was absolutely **normal** practice, the sequence of production being: (1) printing of adverts; (2) gumming of paper; (3) printing of stamp designs; (4) perforation of sheets. If it were otherwise, how does one arrive at a plausible explanation for another, quite different, variety found in the advertisement stamps, that is the 1d one **with the stamp design printed on the gum** (DA2j(Y) in the C.P. Catalogue)? I have seen several examples of the latter, so I can vouch that it does exist.

Secondly, previous thinking seems to have overlooked the fact that while the advertisements on the "inverted setting" varieties frequently appear misplaced on the issued stamps, **so too do the watermarks**. In point of fact, on the few examples I have examined, watermarks and advertisements, although poorly registered on the stamp, were well aligned in relation to each other — it was the stamp designs, and the perforations (these would of course be placed to conform with the designs) which were badly misplaced.

I am satisfied, therefore, that all circumstances which resulted in the "inverted setting" varieties came about **after** the advertisements had been printed — **correctly** printed — and that the varieties themselves are more properly and justifiably describable as "**design inverted**". This upgrades them from rather minor curiosities (as which they are generally regarded at present) to the class of really major errors, I suggest.

301 "THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF NEW ZEALAND". VOLUME VII

We have acquired a very few copies of this, the latest in the series of incomparable Handbooks published by the R.P.S.N.Z., like all the earlier volumes, in a strictly limited edition (this one is of 1,000 copies). Volume VII deals in great detail with all aspects of N.Z. postal history to 1874.

Price, post paid £42.50

EXHIBITION MATERIAL

A series of quality offers of the unusual, the desirable, the scarce, and the downright rare. Something here to appeal to the most discerning collector, wherever his or her interest may lie.

- 302 First Sideface 1d.** A magnificent **used block of 4** on the Large Star wmk. paper (as used for the Full-Face Queens), which was used provisionally for a small printing of this 1d (and the 2d) in 1875. If not unique, a used block must be of extreme rarity. Sound, fresh, and lightly cancelled (dated July 1875), it's incredible — but for the fact that this block is all of these. The used block (C1d), Cat. \$ 1000 as single stamps £525.00
- 303(a) Second Sideface 1d.** Superb mint strip of 3 (with selvage at left), centre stamp showing the outstanding 'Screwdriver' flaw (R9/2, bottom left pane). The attractive variety strip, perf. 10 (D2jS), **very** lightly hinged, and pristine fresh £22.50
- (b) As above.** Finest mint strip of 5, perf. 10, with Second or Third Setting advertisements on the back (top right pane, R9/1–5) £37.50
- 304(a) Second Sideface 2d, Perf. 10 (D3g).** Two mint blocks of 4, in lilac and purple respectively. Glorious shades! Some gum creasing, but facially superb, and well above average for these £30.00

- (b) **As above.** Another mint block, this one in mauve-lilac, and with purple Third Setting advertisements on the back (DA3g(8)) — plated to the bottom left pane of adverts, rows 4–5, nos. 3–4. Insignificant vertical crease, otherwise superb £30.00
- (c) **As above.** Mint pair, with Second Setting adverts, proved by both the colour (brown), and the fact that one is a Cadbury's ad. Plated to top left pane, R2/3–4 £25.00
- 305 **3d Second Sideface.** Mint pair with Third Setting adverts in mauve (DA5d(3)). From top right pane, R6/4–5. Fine £57.50
- 306 **4d Second Sideface, Perf. 10.** Mint strip of three with brown adverts (Second Setting). From top left pane, R10/1–3. Somewhat patchy gum, otherwise fine £75.00
- 307 **4d Lake Taupo.** Superfine mint block of 4 from the final comb perf. (1908) issue (E12f). A feature of this perf. is the crisp cleanly-cut holes, and when nicely centred, as here, the stamps have a beauty not found in any other issue of this design £67.50
- 308(a) **½d Mt. Cook Green.** The issue on Cowan Unwmk'd Paper, Perf. 11 (F3a), is by a long way the scarcest of all the basic ½d Mt. Cook issues — and the mint block of 4 here offered is an exceptionally fine one, beautifully centred. The rare block (Cat. C.P. \$700+, S.G. £400+) £275.00
- (b) **As above.** Set of four mint blocks of 4 from the Perkins, Bacon plates of 1907–08, representing each of the listings F5a/b/c/d in the C.P. Catalogue. Condition immaculate — the F5a block is lightly hinged, the others unhinged. A magnificent complete set, in a fine range of shades, and the rare "two-perf" block (only discovered in recent years), is a particularly clear example of the use of different heads of the same gauge. Cat. \$700+ £275.00
- (c) **As above.** Perfect unhinged mint block, perf. 14 x 12¼–13¼ (F5b) in the scarcer dull green shade. Cat. \$80. **SPECIAL OFFER** £17.50
- 309(a) **1d Universal Dot Plates.** Top left corner block of 24 from plate 1. Includes three 'rosette' retouches, and numerous value panel retouches, and since the block is from a relatively worn state of the plate, all of these varieties stand out prominently. Selvedge perfs. reinforced at one point, but a superb fresh piece, all stamps bar one being mint unhinged £100.00
- (b) **As above.** Another block from Dot Plate 1 — this one of 12 stamps (3 x 4), and an early print in a full deep bright carmine shade. Plated to Rows 3–6, Nos. 10–12, and thus includes the good R4/10 and 4/11 re-entries, (the latter is currently listed in C.P. as R4/12, due to a printing error) as well as (again) numerous value tablet retouches — in fact R4/10 is a particularly clear example of a re-entry and a retouch combined in one stamp. The block, finest mint £57.50

Note: Although something around 113 million stamps printed from the three Dot Plates were issued, large mint blocks are strangely difficult to find — just consult Volume 1 of the N.Z. Handbook, or any 1d Universal specialist!

- 310 1d Universal Waterlow Trial Plates.** Set of two matching bottom selvedge blocks of 4 showing the plate numbers W1 and W2 respectively. The pair of scarce plate blocks, previously hinged but very fine mint £250.00
- 311 King Edward VII 4d.** This value was issued in two different colours (red-orange and yellow, the change being made because the original red-orange was found to be too similar to the colour of the 1/- of the same set), and printings in the red-orange appeared with two different perfs (14 line and 14 x 14½ comb). The set of three 4d blocks here offered (H4a/b/d), along with a single copy of the 1/- (H8a) demonstrate all of these facts to perfection – all the ingredients for a beautiful and interesting album page. Condition is exceptionally fine, two of the blocks being marginal and unhinged, the other block and the single very lightly hinged. Cat. \$ 530 £175.00
- 312 King Edward VII 5d.** Superfine mint block of 4 in red-brown, upper stamps perf. 14 x 13½, lower stamps perf. 14 x 14½, with pronounced 'stepping' of the perfs. between the upper and lower pairs. The 'two-perf.' block (H5d) .. £75.00
- 313(a) King Edward VII 6d.** Two-perf. pair (H6e), showing the same lateral perf. stepping. Facially very fine, but both stamps hinged, and a couple of very minor perf. tones, hence (Cat. \$ 400, S.G. £225) £75.00
- (b) As above.** Another 6d two perf. pair, but **used**, with light octagonal parcel cancel. A lovely example of genuine usage, absolutely faultless, rare thus ... £225.00
- 314 King Edward VII 8d.** Completing our offering of Edward two-perf. items, a quite superb block of 4 (H7d) in a curiously dull shade which is neither indigo-blue nor deep bright blue. Fresh, lightly hinged and wonderfully centred £75.00
- 315 1d Dominion.** Top marginal block of 4 on Wiggins Teape paper (J8a), showing the marked top row wear which was inevitable without the protection of buffer bars. Single very light hinge in selvedge, stamps superb unhinged £57.50
- 316 King George V 2d Yellow.** Top marginal block of 4 on 'Pictorial' paper, the upper pair of stamps **entirely without watermark** (K2gZ). An extremely difficult variety (the vast majority of stamps purporting to be the 'no wmk' are not what they're said to be at all). The block, mint unhinged £115.00
- 317 King George V 3d.** Another 'Pictorial' paper wmk/no wmk block (K5dZ). Non-marginal, but very clearly the real Mackay. Unwatermarked stamps lightly hinged, but finest mint block £95.00
- 318 King George V 4d.** A magnificent matched pair of two-perf. blocks of 4 in yellow and bright violet, the upper right stamp in each block being the major and significant R4/10 re-entry (KV5c(a) and KV5f(a)). Finest mint – majestic material! Cat. \$ 440+ £175.00
- 319 King George V 5d.** A brilliant unhinged mint two-perf. block of 4 (K7c). Sheer perfection! £110.00

- 320 King George V 6d.** Top marginal vertical pair on 'Pictorial' paper, upper stamp variety No Watermark (K8dZ). Another extremely difficult item. Merest trace of a hinge on the variety stamp, otherwise immaculate £62.50
- 321 King George V 6d Official.** Left marginal two-perf. block of 4 (K08c) in carmine. For all other laudatory details, see lot 319 above — this block is a repeat! £250.00
- 322 1d Field Marshal.** Finest mint copy of the listed major variety Imperf. at Top (with top selvage attached) (K15aV) £42.50

- 323(a) King George VI 1d Red.** Perhaps the most important of all this month's offers. Matching plate blocks of 18 (6 x 3) from plate 8, showing R6/6 (a) in the 'normal' pre-flaw state, and (b) with the 'Medallion' flaw fully developed. Positional pieces showing the flaw are rare (examples were almost invariably preserved in non-positional blocks of 4), and of positional pieces (as they have to be) showing the pre-flaw state, we know of only one other block. The proving pair of blocks, both in superfine condition (two light hinges each block) £275.00

- (b) **As above.** Another remarkable plate 8 block — of 25 stamps (5 x 5), with full top right corner selvage, and plate number alongside R4/24. The block includes the only two other recorded (and listed) plate 8 varieties — the retouches on R2/21 and R5/20. Both are clearly detectable by the unaided eye, the former resulting in a notable alteration to the King's facial expression, and the latter producing an extensive area of coarse, heavy appearance in the background shading to the right of the King's neck. Again, these are seldom if ever seen in truly positional block. One or two negligible tone spots, otherwise superb £75.00

- 324 King George VI 1/-.** Unhinged mint copy (with top selvage) of the rare variety Double Print of Centre, One Albino (M13aZ), characterised by the markedly blurred print, the distinctive bright rich copper brown — in contrast to the relatively dull, chocolatey shades of normal stamps — and, in this example, the presence of a 'pressure line' in the selvage, caused by the edge of the sheet under which the variety sheet was fed through the printing press on its first (albino) pass. One other peculiarity common to each of the few examples we have seen over the years is an identical upward misplacement of the centre in relation to the frame — a strong indication that only one sheet was issued. One of the major K.G.VI varieties £275.00
- 325 King George VI 1d Green Official.** Mint block of 8 on fine HM paper (MO2b) with imprint and plate no. 29 in selvage. **Very scarce** £100.00

KING GEORGE VI F.D.C.'S

In 1938 the first three values of the new King George VI definitive series were issued, ½d Green (M1a) on 1st March, 1d Scarlet (M2a) on 1st July, and 1½d Chocolate (M4a) on 26th July. To commemorate this, illustrated F.D.C.'s were produced, and the following selection is probably the finest range we have ever had to offer. All F.D.C.'s offered are franked with one of these adhesives, of course, and each is dated on one of the 1938 dates mentioned.

- 331** Illustrated cover with "King George the Sixth" above two vertical Maori designs/ N.Z. Map in circle and "New Zealand 1938" below. Four examples of this cover in printed colours of blue/red, black/red, sage/green and brown/green. An attractive page in the making £20.00
- 332** Illustrated cover with kiwi in circle as part of a larger triangular design. Three examples of this cover in red/black, green/brown and orange/black respectively. The first two covers also have "New Zealand 1938" below the illustration, whilst the third has "First Despatch/'All-up' Empire Air Mail/ N.Z. — Aust — Great Britain" below the illustration. Yet another fine page .. £15.00
- 333** Three covers, bearing ½d, 1d, 1½d adhesives respectively, each cover with a completely different printed illustration. Nice £15.00
- 334** Bumper Lot of 10 (yes ten) covers, each with a different illustration commemorating the relevant first day of issue — some of these we've never seen before £40.00
- 335** Single Cover (illustration featuring the kiwi), the adhesives being a marginal 1d block of 4, with plate no. 7 in the left selvedge. Most unusual £25.00

HEALTHS 1973 — 1977

All mint unless otherwise stated.

- 336(a)** 1973 Health (T45a/b). Imprint/plate blocks of 10 one each value £5.00
- (b) As above. Two 4c marginal blocks (of 6 and 8 stamps) with R2/3 and R6/4 varieties respectively £7.50
- (c) As above. 3c miniature sheet with the well known R2/3 "pimple in hair" variety £10.00
- (d) As above. The above R2/3 variety is familiar on the 3c miniature sheet, but not so well-known is the same variety on the 4c sheet, as here offered £15.00
- (e) As above. Used block of 4 of both values £3.00
- (f) As above. Complete set of six Health Camp Postmark covers £24.00
- 337(a)** 1974 Health (T46a—c). Complete set of six imprint/plate blocks plates 1A and 1B of each value. 36 stamps £15.00
- (b) As above. Two miniature sheets, quite brilliant contrasts of the large cat, as well as good green contrasts £35.00
- (c) As above. Used block of 4 of each value £5.00
- (d) As above. Two different illustrated F.D.C.'s £3.00
- (e) As above. Complete set of six Health Camp Postmark covers £24.00
- 338(a)** 1975 Health (T47a—c): Complete set of six imprint/plate blocks, as listed in the C.P. Catalogue £9.50

(b)	As above. All three values in used blocks of 4	£7.50
(c)	As above. Two 4c sheet value blocks (4 stamps per block) both used , top selvage perforated and not perforated	£7.50
(d)	As above. Miniature sheet with constant plate varieties on R2/2, 3/2, 4/2, 5/2 (full annotation included)	£12.50
(e)	As above. Miniature sheet from a different position in the all-up printed sheet, with constant varieties R1/1, 4/1, 5/2	£12.50
(f)	As above. Mini-sheet from the same positions as offer (e), but with an additional printing flaw	£17.50
(g)	As above. Mini-sheet with bull's-eye flaw on R3/1 (boy's hair)	£15.00
(h)	As above. Complete set of six Health Camp Postmark covers	£24.00
339(a)	1976 Health (T48a—c). Set of six imprint/plate blocks, complete as listed ...	£9.50
(b)	As above. Sheet value block of each value. The three blocks	£4.25
(c)	As above. Sheet value block of 4 of the 8c, from plate 1B, with the error sheet value \$.900 (it should be \$9.00 of course)	£3.00
(d)	As above. Large 7c imprint/plate block of 10 with R9/4 "pale face" variety (T48aZ). A nice one!	£4.50
(e)	As above. 8c corner block of 10 with R5/2 flaw (T48bZ)	£4.50
(f)	As above. Used block of 4 of each value	£7.50
(g)	As above. Two miniature sheets, nice shades (on the 7c stamp) of the horse and tee-shirt	£12.50
(h)	As above. Complete set of six Health Camp Postmark covers	£24.00
340(a)	1977 Health (T49a—c). Complete set of six imprint/plate blocks, plate nos. 1A and 1B for each value	£9.50
(b)	As above. Three sheet value blocks of 4, one each value	£4.25
(c)	As above. Used block of 4 of each value	£5.00
(d)	As above. Two 7c stamps, brilliant shades, virtually all colours affected, deep and pale	£3.50
(e)	As above. The same two superb contrasts, blocks of 4	£14.00
(f)	As above. Large 7c plate block of 10, with R10/4 and 10/5 flaws (T49aZ and Y).	£7.50
(g)	As above. Used 7c block of 4 with the R10/5 flaw	£4.00

(h) As above. Corner 8c block of 12 with R3/7 flaw (T49bZ) — R2/8 variety is also included	£5.00
(i) As above. Corner 8c block of 9 with R2/2 and 3/3 varieties	£4.00
(j) As above. Two miniature sheets selected for their wide shade variation, brown and red-brown tree	£15.00
(k) As above. Miniature sheet with the good "extra butterfly" variety in left selvedge design, also R1/2 hand flaw	£7.50
(l) As above. Mini sheet with R2/3 knee flaw	£7.50
(m) As above. Mini sheet with R2/1 bull's-eye flaw	£7.50
(n) As above. Mini sheet with large red flaws in hair on R2/1. Superb	£12.50
(o) As above. Yet another mini-sheet, with R2/3 green flaw — the positioning of this flaw is fortuitously unfortunate, giving the girl a green beard! Lovely ..	£12.50

RECENT ISSUES

1989 The Sea. We understand the 40c, 60c, 80c values of this set have only been found with bottom selvedge perforated, whereas the 65c, \$ 1, \$ 1.50 values are known both perforated and not perforated.

(i) 65c, \$ 1, \$ 1.50 imprint blocks, bottom selvedge perforated	£16.00
(ii) Ditto, imprint blocks of these three values, not perforated bottom selvedge	£16.00
(iii) Ditto, similar set of three imprint blocks, but mixed perforated and not perforated to your requirements	£16.00

Definitive Reprints

5c Mineral (PB5). Seven-kiwi reprint in imprint block of 8	40p
30c Silvereye (PC12). One-kiwi reprint in imprint block of 6	£1.65
\$ 3 Stitchbird (PC7). Two-kiwi reprint:	
(i) imprint block of 6, left selvedge perforated	£14.00
(ii) similar imprint block, left selvedge not perforated	£14.00

Philexfrance \$ 3.50 Miniature Sheet. This attractive and unusual sheetlet features the \$2 black robin (PC6), highlighting five different colour separations of the stamp, imperf., plus a perforated copy of the issued stamp (incidentally, the sheetlet has 'blue' gum, the first time this has been seen on the \$2). Visually superb

£3.25

World Stamp Expo '89, held in Washington D.C. between 17 Nov. and 3rd Dec. 1989. Three souvenir items:—

(i) Personal Message booklet, the cover overprinted with the exhibition details and logo	£2.00
(ii) 1989 Health Miniature sheet, selvedge overprinted as (i)	£3.25
(iii) Special \$ 1.50 miniature sheet, featuring the 70c Paradise Shelduck (PC16). Like the Philexfrance sheet, extremely attractive, particularly to ornithologists, as the sheetlet shows the birds in some detail. A beautiful and inexpensive item	£1.75