

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

Waterlow 'Shift Dots' – Yet More Remarkable Discoveries. As I've observed more than once in the past, the last word has by no means been said on this interesting subject.

These selvedge markings were first noted many years ago on some of the emergency 1940–41 printings by Waterlow and Sons of the Second Pictorials, although I am convinced that present knowledge of them even in this issue is far from complete.

Then, as recently as late-1985, I reported in these columns the finding of similar markings on both values of the 1947 Health set, alongside the 'job number' (or plate number). Unfortunately study in this case is not easy, for the markings were positioned high above the top row of impressions on the plate, and do not normally appear on issued sheets. Only when, very occasionally, the top selvedge was abnormally wide, due to faulty guillotining, or (also very occasionally) when an offset impression of the number appeared on the back of a sheet, is it possible to determine the presence or absence of shift markings. Nevertheless, I have seen sufficient examples to establish that when printing commenced there were no shift markings and that, when they did appear, they were added to progressively as printing proceeded. Full details of the markings known were published in the December 1985 issue of N.Z. Bulletin, and no additional information has been forthcoming since then as regards that Health issue.

Shortly afterwards I reported **possible** evidence of one shift dot alongside an offset impression of the frame plate job number 43009 on the 1946 Health 1d + ½d, but this was never substantiated. The same problem occurs with the 1946 Healths as with the 1947s. Normally the job numbers (and therefore shift dots, if any) do not appear on issued sheets, and research is limited to those exceptional cases of faulty guillotining and/or offsetting on the back. However, I have now seen an example of the centre plate job number 43012 (offset on the back of a piece from a sheet of the 1d + ½d), **with twelve shift dots – arranged in two horizontal rows of six – alongside.** It is possible that this marking may consist of more than twelve dots. A larger piece than that available to me would be necessary to determine that beyond doubt.

The other obvious candidates with the potential to produce shift dot surprises are the Waterlow-printed values of the 1946 Peace set (½d, 3d, 4d, 5d, 6d, 8d and 9d). Yet again, precisely the same difficulties arise as in the 1946 and 1947 Healths as regards the availability of suitable material for examination. But here too that potential can now be confirmed. I have in front of me a block of the 3d Peace, with frame plate job number 42856 offset on the back

of the top selvage, and six shift dots (two horizontal rows of three) alongside. In this instance, I can safely add that the marking is complete.

Thus it is now established that in every N.Z. issue printed during the 1940s by Waterlow and Sons, this peculiar system of shift markings was employed. There is no reason to doubt that they were used on other values not yet recorded, and in other combinations, if only examples can be found.

As I indicated at the outset (and this note serves only to emphasise the point), much of the Waterlow shift dots saga has still to unfold.

1969 Trade Promotion Designs. Following my note (last month's Bulletin) recording a block of the 8c Fruit Industry with dull PVA type gum (as opposed to the glossy gum usually associated with this stamp), Mr. John Hess of Stoke on Trent reports that he has examples of the 7c Fishing Industry and the 20c Meat Industry with both gum types. This leaves only the 18c Wool Industry (of the Bradbury, Wilkinson-printed issues) on which the existence of the dull matt gum is yet to be established.

NEW ISSUES AND VARIETIES

(from C.P. Newsletter Monthly, April 1991)

1991 Bicentenary of the discovery of the Chatham Islands and Bicentenary of the New Zealand Football Association Issues. These Commemoratives make up the latest of New Zealand issues and appeared on the 6th March 1991. The stamps were designed by Ken Hall (Chatham Islands) and Terry Crilley (Football Association). Both issues were printed locally by Southern Colour Print Ltd., Dunedin, by the offset lithography process. The paper was supplied by manufacturers in Canada. Values are Chatham Islands 40c and 80c – these stamps feature a montage of scenes, artifacts and personalities relating to the Islands. In the Football issue, the value is 80c and the two designs appear se-tenant horizontally. Perforation gauge is 13½ x 13½ (both issues). A First Day Cover was also designed and produced for both issues by the stamp designers, and unaddressed First Day Covers were available from New Zealand Post. The Chatham Islands were the south-eastern extreme of 5,000 years of Pacific migration by Polynesians (the common ancestors of Moriori and New Zealand Maori.) Chatham Islands are a cold, wind-swept outpost of New Zealand, with an average temperature of around 11 degrees centigrade. They are exposed to the prevailing south-westerly winds. The New Zealand Football Association began to administer the game on a national basis in 1891. Association football – soccer – was brought to New Zealand by British settlers and is followed keenly by a considerable number of people in New Zealand.

Variety: In the 80c Chatham Islands we have seen Row 10/1, thin black line near the chimney of the house. In the Football Association, we have observed Row 9/3 "cut while shaving" flaw. Red dot on cheek of player in white.

\$4 Saddleback. New Zealand Post announced that the above stamp was withdrawn from all New Zealand Post outlets on the 29th March 1991.

1986 Music in New Zealand Issue. We recently purchased five sheets containing one of the most spectacular perforation errors of recent years of this 30c Orchestral issue. The second to last vertical column from the right of single comb perforations was slewed markedly to the right in the top five horizontal rows of the sheet. This is the only major variety recorded in the Music issue. For this reason it is very rare and will be sought-after.

40c Brown Kiwi – 7 Kiwi Reprint. Our Auckland staff have noted that this reprint is in a deeper, more "Rusty" shade than previous reprints.

New Zealand Booklets. We note that the "hang-sell" type of booklet announced in these pages in our November 1990 issue now seems to be the norm and this new format will, we surmise, become general for all New Zealand booklets.

New Zealand — Six Monarchs Miniature Sheet. This miniature sheet has been observed with an outstanding offset on the back. There appears to have been only one miniature found and that was torn up with one stamp having been used. What makes this offset so interesting is that the printing has been reported to be "under the gum". This means that these stamps are gummed after printing and in that sense return to the methods used for the printing of the 1898 Pictorials, wherein all offsets are printed, in reverse, on the back, "under the gum". Certainly readers should keep an eye out for examples of this variety as this one reported item will have come from a main sheet containing multiple impressions of the miniature sheet.

(Report taken from Stamp News and Captain Cook Journal of the Christchurch (N.Z.) Philatelic Society)

Change in Registration Fee. On the 1st March the registration fee in New Zealand went from \$3.20 to \$4. There are also alterations to the rates for large parcels and insurance.

C.P. Newsletter queries the reasons for withdrawal of the \$4 Bird stamp in the light of this recent registration fee change.

Self Adhesive Stamps To Be Issued. New Zealand Post Ltd. has announced that self adhesive stamps, already in use in the U.S.A., Canada, Australia and Japan, will soon become available in New Zealand through Post Shops. There is a premium of \$2 over the total value of the stamps, (a \$2 charge for the dispenser used.) The stamps will be sticky-backed but the gum used is water soluble so collectors will be able to soak these stamps off envelopes. We've yet to see this production and await its characteristics with some trepidation. New Zealand Post is on record as saying that it looks very similar to the current 40c Brown Kiwi stamp. The packs will contain 100 stamps and peeling them from a continuous roll of backing paper is a simple matter. Collectors will be able to buy self adhesive stamp First Day Covers from the Philatelic Bureau, Philatelic Sales Centre and selected Post Offices. There will be unaddressed First Day Covers available as well.

N.Z. Post have announced they will make available to collectors, single stamps and strips. By purchasing three stamps, a collector can be sure to obtain at least one stamp mounted on a full uncut panel of backing paper — a configuration already popular overseas with collectors of blocks of conventional stamps. First day of issue is 17th April 1991.

1973 4c on 2½c "Local" Letterpress Surcharge on 2½c Magpie Moth. Leith Shand of Wanganui has questioned the listing in the C.P. Catalogue Variety Section of Varieties Prov. 7a and Prov. 10a where they fall under the Local Letterpress surcharge. To be more specific, these varieties relate to Row 3/17 and Row 4/19 in Yellow plate 1a and Red plate 1b of the above basic stamp. The existence of these flaws in other overprintings is not questioned by Leith, but through years of trying to find proof, he has been unable to establish that these flaws do exist in the (final) Local Letterpress surcharge. Would any client who possesses examples of these flaws, please contact us.

Leith theorises that as only the fourth and fifth printings of the original 2½c stamp were sent to New Zealand, then the early flaws such as Row 2/17, Row 3/17 and Row 4/19 were retouched by them, and hence they were never found in their flawed state in the 2½c stamp issue. He believes it was the surplus stock of these latter printings (and we now know that there were large stocks of these held in New Zealand) that were overprinted by the New Zealand Government Printer. This would confirm why all varieties found locally in the 2½c stamp were identical with those found in the Local Letterpress surcharge stamp. Similarly, the earlier printings, first,

second and third: when the flaws to these three stamps occurred, they were held over in England and later surcharged by means of photogravure and London Letterpress methods. Stamps overprinted thus were found to contain both flawed and retouched state. In fact the Row 4/19 (London Letterpress) was even found in a pre-flawed state! It wasn't found in a pre-flawed state in its 2½c form, nor in the Local Letterpress surcharged state.

Can you add to this discussion? We'd like to hear from you.

SECOND PICTORIALS

Concluding the registered watermark listing commenced last month. Offers of the multiple wmk. issues will follow in forthcoming Bulletins.

501(a)	3d Maori Girl (L6a). Marginal copy, mint unhinged	£18.50
(b)	As above. We list just one shade in this issue, but here are two superb contrasts in marginal blocks of four — the listed dark chocolate, and a distinctly reddish chocolate. Superfine mint	£135.00
(c)	As above. Bottom left corner pair with the plate number 2 virtually complete — a great rarity in the single wmk. issue. Cat. \$ 875 as a mint block of four — this pair is c.t.o., hence only	£75.00
(d)	As above. Sound commercially used copy with variety Watermark Inverted — another extremely scarce item	£35.00
(e)	As above. Horizontal pair with left selvage attached. Due to a guillotining error, the selvage is double the normal width, and appears as a complete perforated, but unprinted stamp — for all the world like the ultimate in missing colours! A spectacular piece, finest mint	£42.50
502(a)	5d Swordfish, Perf. 13—14 x 13½ (L8a). Mint unhinged copy	£35.00
(b)	As above, but previously hinged	£15.00
(c)	As above. Plate block of four (pl. no. 1). Full corner selvage, and superfine mint	£137.50
(d)	As above. Superb used block of four, each stamp centrally cancelled by Bulls c.d.s. of 1MY 35, the first day of issue	£50.00
(e)	As above. Vertical pair with a perfect strike of the large circular Wellington Parcels c.d.s. of 16 MAY 1935. If you're seeking the unusual and the eye-catching, this is it!	£27.50
503	5d Swordfish, Perf. 13½ x 14 (L8b). Plate block of four. Minor gum stains, hence (Cat. \$ 325)	£50.00
504(a)	6d Harvesting (L9a). Plate block of four, without a trace of the crack which developed around the plate number. Mint unhinged	£35.00
(b)	As above. Similar block, with early but clear signs of the plate crack. Superfine mint	£37.50

(c)	As above. Marginal block of four in a strikingly pale shade, supplied with a single in the normal deep scarlet for comparison. The block, brilliant unhinged mint	£35.00
505(a)	8d Tuatara (L10a). Unhinged mint copy in sepia	£6.00
(b)	As above. Set of two, finest mint, in the listed shades of sepia and brown. Brilliant contrasts!	£8.00
(c)	As above. Similarly superb shades, but fine commercially used	£5.00
(d)	As above. Plate (no. A2) block of four, mint and superfine	£27.50
506(a)	9d Maori Panel (L11a). Unhinged mint copy. Recognisable at a glance by the black background colour (all subsequent issues of the 'large' 9d had the background in shades of grey)	£16.00
(b)	As above. Marginal block of four, superfine mint	£47.50
(c)	As above. The centres in this issue were a pretty uniform scarlet, but the two fine mint blocks here offered show nicely contrasting shades	£65.00
507(a)	1/- Tui (L12a). Fine lightly hinged mint copy	£11.00
(b)	As above. Marginal block of four, mint unhinged. A band of light discolouration of the gum in no way affects superb facial appearance	£42.50
(c)	As above. Plate block of four, superfine mint	£95.00
(d)	As above. Similarly fine plate block, but overprinted Official (LO12a)	£85.00
508(a)	2/- Capt. Cook Landing, Perf. 13—14 x 13½ (L13a). Unhinged mint copy. Elusive in this condition	£36.00
(b)	As above. Fine mint example with variety Wmk. Inverted (L13aZ)	£25.00
(c)	As above. The same variety, but used	£20.00
(d)	As above. Superfine mint plate block of 4	£145.00
(e)	As above. Marginal copy with R1/4 'COQK' variety. Finest mint	£30.00
509(a)	2/- Capt. Cook Landing, Perf. 13½ x 14 (L13b). Marginal copy with R1/4 COQK variety. Stamp mint unhinged	£40.00
(b)	As above. Another example of the COQK variety, but superb used	£30.00
510(a)	3/- Mt. Egmont, Perf. 14—13 x 13½ (L14a). Perfect unhinged mint copy	£55.00
(b)	As above, but very lightly hinged	£25.00
(c)	As above. Superfine mint plate block, hinged in selvage only	£235.00
(d)	As above. Very fine commercially used copy. Special offer at	£15.00

- (e) **As above.** Superb used block of four (Wellington registered c.d.s.) £97.50
- 511(a)** 3/- Mt. Egmont, Perf. 13½ x 14 (L14b). Fine, very lightly hinged mint copy from the first experimental wet printing. Quite a scarce stamp — but not, of course, in the same class as the subsequent experimental printing with inverted-and-reversed wmk. £27.50
- (b) **As above.** Superb mint plate block of four. All stamps unhinged, and magnificently centred £235.00
- (c) **As above.** Very fine commercially used copy. Like lot 510(d) above, a special offer this month only at £15.00

Q.E. DEFINITIVES, ½d — 8d (N1 — N8)

Breaking a superb collection of these original 'pence' values. Much attractive philatelic material offered here, most still at affordable prices. All mint, with the exception of lot 518(h).

- 512** **Imprint/plate blocks of six.** A complete set of all the plate numbers (1—33) used for the production of these ½d — 8d values. Thirty three different plate blocks, all fine mint (Cat. \$ 350+) £100.00
- 513** **Shades.** A complete run of all the N1 — N8 shades listed in the C.P. Catalogue, with the exception of the very rare 8d pale pink (but see lot 520d). Twenty-one items, each in block of four stamps £25.00
- 514(a)** ½d (N1a). Two imprint/plate (no. 1) blocks, pronounced paper differences .. £6.00
- (b) **As above.** Corner block of twelve from plate 2 with the Catalogued R8/4 retouch — NV1a £15.00
- 515(a)** 1d (N2a). Two imprint/plate (no. 31) blocks, again obvious paper contrasts . £6.00
- (b) **As above.** Marginal block of twelve, including the plate 5 R4/6 retouch — NV2a £15.00
- (c) **As above.** Two 1d (N2a) booklet panes of six, watermark upright and inverted respectively (these panes emanate from W7a and b booklets) £3.75
- 516(a)** 1½d (N3a). Two matching imprint/plate blocks, superb paper variations £7.50
- (b) **As above.** Marginal block of four with plate 14 R1/20 retouch — NV3a £15.00
- 517(a)** 2d (N4a). Two matching imprint/plate blocks, striking paper contrasts (one of which justifies the description 'Pelure') £6.00
- (b) **As above.** Three plate 17 blocks; (i) normal, (ii) early state of the plate crack, (iii) advanced state of the plate crack, showing major damage in the bottom selvedge. Brilliant set £77.50
- (c) **As above.** Corner block of eight, with plate 16 R4/2 retouch — NV4a (a) ... £15.00
- (d) **As above.** Marginal block of six, with plate 15 R3/12 and 3/13 retouches — NV4a(b) £12.50

518(a)	3d (N5a). Two matching imprint/plate blocks, once again superb paper contrasts (including a pelure)	£6.50
(b)	As above. Four imprint/plate (no. 21) blocks of four, one normal, the others with 1, 3 and 8 erroneous perf. holes respectively in the bottom selvage	£15.00
(c)	As above. Six different imprint/plate blocks (pl. nos. 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27) each with erroneous perf. holes in bottom selvage	£15.00
(d)	As above. Two 3d (N5) booklet panes of six, watermark upright and inverted respectively (these panes are found only in W7a Booklets)	£6.00
(e)	As above. Two 3d booklet panes (both upright watermark), fine vermilion shades (one remarkably deep)	£7.50
(f)	As above. A complete listing of plate varieties as detailed in the C.P. Catalogue:	
(i)	Plate 22 R5/11 major retouch – NV5a(a) – in marginal block of fifteen	£15.00
(ii)	Plate 23 R8/3 retouch – NV5a(b) – in marginal block of six	£12.50
(iii)	Plate 24 R6/6 retouch – NV5a(c) – in block of four	£15.00
(iv)	Plate 24 R6/19 retouch – NV5a(d) – in marginal block of twelve ..	£12.50
(v)	Plate 26 R4/2 retouch. Two marginal blocks of four, showing both states of the variety – NV5a(e) (1) and (2)	£40.00
(vi)	Plate 27 R10/7 retouch – NV5a(f) – in marginal block of four	£12.50
(vii)	Plate 30 R4/8 retouch – NV5a(g) – in pair with normal	£9.00
(viii)	Plate 21 R4/14 retouch – NV5a(h) – in block of four	£10.00
(ix)	Plate 21 R6/8 retouch – NV5a(j) – in marginal block of ten	£12.50
(x)	Plate 23 R5/14 and 5/15 retouches – NV5a(k) – in block of four ..	£17.50
(xi)	Plate 25 R2/4 retouch – NV5a(m) – in marginal block of four	£15.00
(xii)	Plate 25 R6/14 retouch – NV5a(n) – in block of four	£25.00
(xiii)	Plate 26 R1/14 retouch – NV5a(p) – in marginal block of four	£17.50
(g)	As above. Corner block of eight stamps, from plate 24 with R1/21 large red over-inking flaw obliterating the Queen's lips! Eye-catching	£17.50
(h)	As above. The only used stamp in the entire collection, a copy of the blurred print error (N5aX), in a very distinctive scarlet shade – almost certainly an example of a double print, one albino. The only example we have seen	£100.00
519(a)	6d (N7a). Imprint/plate block of six, with part offset of the imprint, but complete offset of the plate number (6), on the back of the block. Brilliant .	£47.50
(b)	As above. Block of four stamps with the R4/19 temple flaw – NV7a(1)	£30.00
(c)	As above. Corner block of 24 with the retouch state of the same R4/19 variety – NV7a(2) – unusual in such a large multiple	£37.50
(d)	As above. Block of four including the R7/3 and 7/4 graver slips (between the inner and outer frame lines)	£12.50
520(a)	8d (N8a). Marginal block of ten from plate 20, including R6/16 first retouch – NV8a(a)(1)	£30.00
(b)	As above. Block of four stamps with the same R6/16 variety, but in the second retouch state – NV8a(a)(2)	£20.00

(c) **As above.** Corner block of ten with the plate 20 R9/4 retouch – NV8a(b)(2) . £25.00

(d) **As above.** Last, but certainly not least, a superb unhinged mint block of four in the rare **pale pink** shade. Only the third block recorded (most of the very small supply in this shade went into a making of counter rolls). Block in a normal rose-carmine included £200.00

521

ANOTHER KING GEORGE V PROVING BLOCK

Our listing under this heading last month was a complete sell-out – in fact we could have sold most of the blocks offered several times over. We have now one further block available, and it's a nice one. A superb mint block of 4 of the 4d, perf. 14 x 13½ (K5h) – no selvedge, but plated to Rows 1 and 2, stamps 2 and 3, and therefore **provably from a rare sheet perf. 14 x 13½ throughout**. Not as immediately obvious as the top selvedge block of course, but just as valid as a proving piece £475.00

OFFER OF THE MONTH

522 **Q.E. 1/6d.** Unhinged mint copy with variety Double Centre Print, one Albino (N11aY). These “blurred centres” are reasonably common on the 1/-, **very** much scarcer on this 1/6d. Cat. \$200. Supplied with a normal stamp for comparison . £67.50

N.Z. COMMEMORATIVES (Continued)

All offers are mint unless otherwise stated.

- 523(a) **1967 Royal Society (S106a/7a).** 8c sheet value block of eight, includes the R1/8, 1/10 and 2/7 varieties – S107a(Y) £3.50
- (b) **As above.** 8c marginal block of 10, including the R7/6 major flaw £3.25
- (c) **As above.** Two 8c marginal blocks (of six and four stamps respectively) including nice transient flaws at R5/2 and 10/5 £10.00
- (d) **As above.** **Used** block of 4 of both values £3.00
- (e) **As above.** Two different illustrated F.D.C.'s £3.00
- 524(a) **1968 Maori Bible (S108).** All three imprint/plate blocks (1A, 1B, 2A) and two different sheet value blocks (26 stamps) £7.25
- (b) **As above.** Additional markings in the top and bottom selvedges are blue cross and square, guide markings. These five blocks (two top and three bottom), all show clear differences. Unusual £12.50
- (c) **As above.** Marginal block of 10 with R4/5 variety £3.75
- (d) **As above.** Three fine shades, each in block of 4 £5.00
- (e) **As above.** Two different illustrated F.D.C.'s £3.00