

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

What Happened on 5th April 1898? Perhaps, as will become evident, a more apposite question would be: What Did Not Happen on 5th April 1898?

This was, of course, the date of issue of the First Pictorials. The day when a radically new and exciting series of postage stamps superseded the relatively staid, dull and unimaginative Sidefaces which had been the staple fare for close on a quarter of a century for users, and collectors, in New Zealand. It was a red-letter day — or ought to have been. The fact is that it seems to have been more of a **dead** letter day, if we are to judge from the evidence available to us today of first-day use of the new stamps.

As far as covers are concerned, I am aware of just one (bearing a 2½d 'Wakitipu' and postmarked Auckland), and this was discovered less than five years ago by Mr. R.D. Samuel while visiting the U.S.A. Even this cover (which I believe now resides in Mr. Samuel's "errors" collection) appears to be an example of routine commercial usage, since it was addressed to a manufacturing company in the U.S.A.

When reporting his find (in the "New Zealand Stamp Collector", September 1987), Mr. Samuel mentioned another cover — bearing several (unspecified) values — which he had heard of, but not seen, many years ago. And these two seem to account for the sum total of known, and reputed first day covers.

As regards other items with first day postmarks, I have a note of (1) a cut out from a parcel, bearing all values to 1/- (including a block of six 2½d Wakitipu) to a total of 5/6d, with Christchurch parcel cancel; (2) a 5/- on piece (cancellation unknown); (3) an unspecified (but presumably small) number of single copies with 5 AP 98 date. But, despite over 20 years of 'keeping an eye out', during which many thousands of used copies must have passed through my hands, I had never seen a solitary example until a couple of months or so ago, when I acquired a quite superb 5/-, with centrally-placed Eltham c.d.s. This actually puts me one up on C.P. himself, for he assures me that throughout his long career he had never come across any first-day use in this series. If that isn't a confirmation of rarity, I don't know what is!

The reason for this peculiar state of affairs are a mystery. The stamps were certainly not sprung on an unsuspecting public without warning. Such an issue was being considered as early as 1894. and in 1895 a design competition was advertised (with very substantial prizes for those days) which brought forth no less than 2,400 designs. In fact Volume 1 of the N.Z. Handbook records that "the stamps found a ready sale and demand for them was so great that to meet requirements the old and new issues were sold together for some considerable time". But it appears that very few were actually used on the first day — fewer still with philatelic aspects in mind. Which is all the more surprising when less than three years later, the "philatelic use" of the 1d Universal on its first day of issue was enormous.

So I repeat — what didn't happen on 5th April 1898?

2d Full-Face Queen, Plate 2. In the 'Hausburg' and 'Jolliffe' reprinted proofs from this plate, there appears a very prominent flaw on R14/1. This takes the form of two parallel diagonal dashes, one much thicker than the other, running from the Queen's forehead into the base of the crown. While this flaw is apparently constant on these reprints of 1906 and 1913 respectively (it is also clearly visible in the photographic reproduction of the damaged area of the plate which

were included as a slip-in 'extra' with Volume 1 of "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand" when it was published in 1938), I can find no record of such a flaw having appeared in any of the multitude of issued stamps printed from this plate between 1865 and 1872. It therefore seems probable that the flaw is the result of damage at some later date, after printing of the issued stamps had ceased, and prior to 1906. I don't know whether it is found on the official reprints (in dull blue) of 1884 — its presence or absence there would of course further narrow down these dates.

I would be surprised if this flaw has not been noted and commented on before — it is far too noticeable to have been overlooked for all these years — but curiously I cannot put my finger on any previous reference.

'N.Z. 1990' Three individual exhibits of N.Z. material made the long journey from U.K. to the recent International Exhibition in Auckland. An anonymous entry (by "Yeroc") of Full-Face Queens was awarded a gold medal; Allan Berry's display of Life Insurance Dept. gained a Large Vermeil, with felicitations of the Jury; and Martin Jackson's Postal Stationery was awarded a Large Silver. Congratulations to all three. Readers may also be interested to learn that the C.P. Catalogue was awarded a Large Silver in the literature section.

1101 1932 AND 1933 HEALTH PUBLICITY LABELS

These scarce and very collectable items, in **brilliant, pristine blocks of 4**, with full original gum. The first blocks we have seen (and we haven't seen too many single copies either!). Unbeatable quality. See front page illustration for one block. The pair of blocks

£275.00

FULL-FACE QUEEN PROOF MATERIAL

- 1102(a) 1884 Reprints.** 1d in pale orange on Large Star wmk. paper, imperf. (These are not infrequently offered as unused copies of the 1862—4 issued stamp, but shade and advanced plate wear are of course conclusive). Fine single £27.50
- (b) As above,** but horizontal pair — lovely! £60.00
- (c) As above.** 2d plate 2, printed in dull blue (as with the 1d, these are often mistaken by the ignorant or unwary as unused Davies Prints). Superb copy .. £30.00
- 1103 1906 Hausburg Reprints.** A complete set of seven, all in top marginal blocks of 4, comprising 1d, 2d Plate 1, 2d Plate 2, 3d, 4d, 6d and 1/-, printed in black on thin card, imperf. Only the 2d Plate 2 is relatively common — of the others only 26 sheets of each are recorded as having been printed (20 of which were retained by the postal authorities). A beautiful set of blocks £375.00

KING GEORGE VI — TWO RARITIES

- 1104 2d on 1½d Provisional.** A magnificent example of the major variety Reinserted '2' (found on R10/10 in some sheets only). In this case traces of the original defective figure are clearly evident. Offered in the ideal form of marginal block of 4 with part printer's imprint (which 'plates' the variety with certainty, of course). Superfine mint — single very light hinge on upper pair, lower pair incl. the variety unhinged £275.00

1105 1d 'Official'. The rare imprint/plate block (no. 85) of eight stamps on coarse paper with horizontal mesh (MO2e). This plate number also exists, considerably more commonly, on coarse VM paper (MO2d) — our block is guaranteed the good one, and in fine condition £250.00

1106 1940 CENTENNIAL OFFICIALS — 'JOINED ff' VARIETIES

Complete set of eight (½d, 1d, 2d, 2½d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 8d), each in marginal pair with normal (2½d in strip of three) except the 2d, which is in non-marginal pair. Light hingeing, where present, is confined to the selvages, again excepting the 2d. The set of eight varieties, Cat. \$ 680 £230.00

1893—94 SECOND SIDEFACE ADVERTISEMENT STAMPS (Concluded)

1107 4d Second Setting. Brown advert £3.00

1108 4d Third Setting. Mauve advert £3.00

1109 4d Proving Pair. The colours of the adverts in this value are unique to the settings (brown for Second Setting, mauve for Third Setting). This set of two 4d's nicely demonstrates the point, one having a Cadbury's ad (in brown), the other a Poneke (in mauve) £7.50

1110 (a) 5d Third Setting. Mauve advert £10.00

(b) As above. Five different adverts £40.00

1111 (a) 6d Second Setting. Deep brown advert £7.00

(b) As above. Five different adverts £27.50

1112 (a) 6d Third Setting. Red-brown or mauve advert, each £6.50

(b) As above. Five different adverts £25.00

1113 (a) 8d Third Setting. Purple adverts. Cat. \$ 125. Special offer, each £27.50

(b) As above. Five different adverts, at an extra-special price £100.00

1114 (a) 1/- Second Setting. Deep brown advert £9.00

(b) As above. Five different adverts £35.00

(c) As above. Copy with advert in black — by a long way the rarest of all the advert colours, and found only on the 1/- £75.00

1115 (a) 1/- Third Setting. Red-brown or mauve advert, each £9.00

(b) As above. Five different adverts £35.00

1116 Matched Set. Nine stamps (one of each value 1d — 1/-), all with the same advertisement £82.50

1117 Mixed Set. Again nine stamps as above, but all with different adverts £57.50

1d UNIVERSAL – FIVE OF THE VERY BEST

All of the following are of great rarity and wondrously, all are in extremely fine condition.

- 1118 'Pirie' Paper, Perf. 11 x 14 (G2c).** The least rare of the quintet, yet to quote our Catalogue "only one mint and a few used copies are known to our publishers". This must be the finest example extant – brilliant used £300.00
- 1119 Reserve Plate, Perf. 11 (G6b).** For some reason, not even listed by S.G., mint or used (possibly because it's so rare they don't know of its existence!). Finest used £625.00
- 1120 Waterlow Trial Plates, Perf. 11 (G9b).** Superb used – one of only two used copies we have handled in many years £750.00
- 1121 Waterlow Trial Plates, Perf. 14 x 11 (G9d).** An extreme rarity, being the better of just two examples known to us. Finest used £875.00
- 1122 Royle Plates, Perf. 11 (G10b).** In mint, quite scarce, though not excessively so. In used, as here, a stamp one never sees £175.00

N.Z. COMMEMORATIVES (Continued)

All offers are mint unless otherwise stated.

- 1123 (a) 1957 Frozen Meat Export (S72/73).** Collection of seven variety blocks (40 stamps), including 4d R1/5, 1/6, 5/8, 10/6, 12/4, 12/7 and 8d R3/5, 3/6, 8/11, 9/12, 10/1 varieties. Also included are two album leaves on which the previous owner has spent many hours illustrating each of these varieties. Superb lot £37.50
- (b) As above.** Copy of the 4d with sideways inverted watermark (S72aZ) £6.50
- (c) As above.** Another 4d single stamp, this time with vertical blue doctor blade flaw. Nice £10.00
- (d) As above.** Illustrated First Day Cover £4.00
- 1124 1957 Plunket (S74).** Just three blocks, includes plate (1) block of 4, sheet value block of 4, and large block of 40 being five vertical rows from plate 2 and including the R1/19, 2/17, 2/20, 3/18, 4/18, 7/16 and 7/19 retouches (all mentioned in Vol. 4 of the Handbooks). A first day cover is also included . £15.00
- 1125 (a) 1958 First Tasman Anniversary (S75).** Both imprint/plate blocks (1 and 2) and a sheet value block – twelve stamps £6.50
- (b) As above.** Two blocks (15 stamps) including the plate 2 flaws to stars varieties at R7/7, 9/5, 10/9, 10/10 – SV75a(a-d) £20.00
- (c) As above.** Two matching corner blocks of 6, one from plate 2 includes the R10/9 and 10/10 varieties (SV75a(c,d)), the other from plate 1 without the varieties £12.50

(d) As above. Marginal block of 4 with an erroneous part strike of the perforating head in the margin	£4.50
(e) As above. The special Air League of N.Z. folder, with the N.Z. 1958 stamp and the near identical Australian stamp (S.G. 304), carried on the two-way 30th Anniversary commemorative flight which exactly matched the original 1928 flights. Most attractive	£12.50
(f) As above. Commemorative envelope, with a pair of the N.Z. stamps and carried on the 14/10/58 Woodbourne — Sydney Commemorative flight. Nice ..	£7.50
1126 (a) 1958 Nelson (S76). Plates 1 and 2, plus a sheet value block. The three blocks of 4	£6.00
(b) As above. Two different illustrated F.D.C.'s	£3.50
1127 (a) 1958 Hawkes Bay (S77-79). Complete set of four plate blocks (2d, 3d x 2, 8d) — six stamps per block	£15.00
(b) As above. Set of four sheet value blocks (2d, 3d x 2, 8d) — four stamps per block	£10.00
(c) As above. Three used blocks of 4 — one each value	£6.00
(d) As above. Illustrated First Day Cover	£4.00
(e) As above. Three matching F.D.C.'s, with 2d, 3d, 8d blocks of 4 stamps respectively	£8.50
1128(a) 1959 Scout Jamboree (S80). All four plates and a sheet value — the five blocks of 4 stamps	£10.00
(b) As above. Official illustrated F.D.C., bearing a plate (A1) block cancelled on the first day of issue	£6.50
1129(a) 1959 Marlborough Centennial (S81-83). Complete set of all four plate blocks (2d, 3d x 2, 8d), six stamps per block	£15.00
(b) As above. The set in sheet value blocks of 4. Three blocks	£5.00
(c) As above. Three used blocks of 4, one each value	£10.00
(d) As above. Four 2d blocks including R1/3, 2/2, 13/6, 20/1 and the R14/3 second retouch SV81a(b). 20 stamps	£25.00
(e) As above. Three 3d bottom marginal blocks of 4, one normal, one with part erroneous strike of the perforating head in the bottom selvage, and the third with an error strike extending into the bottom row of stamps resulting in partial double perfs. (S82aZ)	£10.00
(f) As above. Two 3d plate blocks of six (plate no. 1, stop and no stop) both showing partial double perfs.	£10.00
(g) As above. Marginal block of 8d's including the R9/2 retouch	£10.00

KING GEORGE V SURFACE PRINTED, ½d – 3d

Commencing probably the best listing we have ever been able to offer of these issues – generally, and rather unjustifiably, considered to be the poor relations of the recess-prints. Perhaps from a purely aesthetic angle they are inferior, but their range of shades is just as attractive, and their variety interest superior.

- 1131(a) Complete Set.** 30 stamps, representing one of each C.P. Catalogue listing from K13a through to K19d. Superfine mint – priced as hinged, but in fact many are unhinged. A rare opportunity £162.50
- (b) As above.** A similarly complete set of 18 stamps overprinted Official (some issues were not overprinted) £75.00
- 1132(a) ½d De La Rue (K13a).** Magnificent set of six shade blocks of 4, ranging from deep green to yellow-green. Superfine mint £30.00
- (b) As above.** Finest mint copy in the scarce and distinctive **bronze-green** £20.00
- (c) As above.** Corner block of 4, with sheet number, and with complete extra strike of the comb perforator in top selvage, giving Double Perfs. at top (K13aY). Only example we have seen of this spectacular variety. Superb mint £97.50
- (d) As above.** Unhinged mint copy with variety Watermark Inverted (K13aV). A scarce one! £25.00
- (e) As above.** Marginal strip of three, including one stamp virtually without watermark, one stamp letter watermark and one stamp inverted watermark! A little light gum toning, otherwise immaculate £50.00
- (f) As above.** Booklet pane of six stamps (all selvages complete), with the clear prints characteristic of the Perkins Bacon steel plates (W4bZ). Superfine mint £85.00
- (g) As above.** Superfine mint blocks of 4 (overprinted Official) in two shades of green (KO13a) £3.75
- (h) As above.** Good mint copy with a full two-thirds of the design offset on the back (KO13aZ) £15.00
- 1133(a) 1½d Black, Local Plate (K16a).** Unhinged mint block of 4. Cat. \$ 60, special offer at £12.50
- (b) As above.** Set of two corner blocks of 4 (one with sheet serial number), showing the extreme variation in the 'diapering' which occurred on the plate. In one block this diapering – which formed the diamond pattern of the background – is full and clear, while in the other block it is at best unclear, and at worst totally missing. The two interesting blocks, mint unhinged £37.50
- (c) As above.** The excellent listed R1/11 variety (K16aX) in marginal block of 4 with three normal stamps. Unhinged mint £25.00

- (d) **As above.** In addition to R1/11, the following are all good unlisted plate varieties (full details included in each case)
- | | |
|--|--------|
| (i) R2/7 and 2/8 in marginal block of 4, unhinged | £20.00 |
| (ii) R3/1 and 4/1 in marginal block of 4, unhinged | £20.00 |
| (iii) R3/23 in marginal block of 4, unhinged | £22.50 |
| (iv) R4/7 in unhinged block of 4 | £22.50 |
| (v) R4/11 in unhinged block of 4 | £20.00 |
| (vi) R8/3 in marginal block of 6, unhinged | £27.50 |
| (vii) R9/23 in marginal block of 4, unhinged | £20.00 |
- (e) **As above.** Block of 4 in grey-black, overprinted Official (KO16a). Mint unhinged
- £17.50
- (f) **As above.** Although we list only two shades in the Official issue, we can offer a set of three — in grey, grey-black and black. Unhinged mint
- £18.50
- (g) **As above.** Official block of 4 (marginal unhinged), including the R2/7 and 2/8 plate varieties
- £22.50
- (h) **As above.** The R4/11 plate variety, in unhinged mint block of 4
- £22.50
- 1134(a) 1½d Black, London Plate (K17a).** Fine mint block of 4
- £15.00
- (b) **As above.** Set of two mint singles, in the listed black and grey-black shades ..
- £8.75
- (c) **As above.** Marginal block of 4, overprinted Official (KO17a), unhinged mint (grey-black shade). Cat. \$ 30
- £7.50
- 1135(a) 1½d Orange Brown, De La Rue Paper (K17b).** Blocks of 4 in two shades of orange-brown, plus a single in the scarcer chestnut. Finest mint
- £13.50
- (b) **As above.** Superfine mint block of 4 overprinted Official (KO17b)
- £10.00
- (c) **As above.** Superb mint Official corner block, with sheet serial number
- £13.50

(to be continued)

RECENT ISSUES

1990 Scenic (Sesquicentennial), 80c, \$ 1.00, \$ 1.50, \$ 1.80 — issued 13 June 1990.

Mint set of 4 stamps	£3.15
Complete set of 4 imprint blocks (6 stamps per block)	£22.00
Official Illustrated F.D.C. (Wanganui pmk.)	£3.40
Presentation Pack, highly illustrated and including a set of all four stamps.	
Post paid	£6.75
Miniature Sheet featuring the \$ 1.80 Anniv. of Auckland stamp	£1.50
Official illustrated F.D.C. of the miniature sheet (Wanganui pmk.)	£1.75

1990 Health 40c + 5c, 80c + 5c (issued 25/7/90)

Mint set of 2 stamps	85p
Two imprint blocks of 6, one each value	£5.50
Official illustrated F.D.C. (Wanganui pmk.)	£1.10
Miniature Sheet, includes two sets se-tenant	£1.70
Health Camp Postmarks , set of 7 covers posted on the day of issue of the Health stamps at Gisborne, Glenelg, Roxburgh, Otaki, Maunu, Pakuranga and Rotorua Health Camps. Post paid	£9.25