

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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WE WISH ALL N.Z. BULLETIN READERS
A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS
AND A
PEACEFUL AND PROSPEROUS 1991



N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

K.G.V Recess Prints — The Major Partly Imperf. Varieties. Evidence is mounting that a remarkable series of errors was made in the recording of these varieties at the time of their discovery in the 1920s and early 1930s.

The following is a summary of the information laid out in "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand" (almost entirely extracted from Volume 1, but in one case — the 4d Plate 44 — revised by a later statement in Volume 2):

- (a) 4d Plate 20 — Four sheets with a strike of the comb perforations omitted from the fifth horizontal row, issued at Christchurch in 1926.
- (b) 4d Plate 44 — Four similar sheets, issued at Auckland (no date given).
- (c) Do. — An unspecified number of similar sheets, issued at Palmerston North (again no date given).
- (d) 5d — Sixteen sheets with perforations omitted from the top half (i.e. the upper five rows), issued at Palmerston North and Wellington in 1926.
- (e) 6d — Four sheets as in (a), issued at Wellington in 1928.
- (f) 9d — One sheet with perforations omitted from the top four rows, issued at Port Ahuriri in 1924.
- (g) Do. — Four sheets as in (a), issued at Queenstown (no date given).
- (h) 1/- Vermilion — One sheet with perforations omitted from the top four rows, issued at Wairoa in 1922.

(In addition to the above, an unknown quantity — one or more sheets — of the 1/- in orange-vermilion was issued partly imperf., i.e. with the lower part perf. 14 x 14½, and the upper part imperf. These are not mentioned anywhere in the N.Z. Handbooks.)

There is no reason — at least I know of none — to question either the quantities recorded, or where any of these varieties were issued. However, in a note published in N.Z. Bulletin, July 1987, I reported partly imperf. blocks of the 4d plate 44, and of the 6d, both proving beyond any shadow of a doubt that they came from sheets with perforations omitted from the sixth horizontal row, thus calling into question the Handbook details. Much more recently, two further interesting items have come to light. Firstly, I have seen a marginal block of the 9d, upper pair imperf., lower pair imperf. at top, with selvedge watermark inscription (the letters STA of POSTAGE) offering very powerful evidence indeed that this block emanated from the fifth and sixth horizontal rows of a sheet. Theoretically, this block could conform with the Handbook record — if the perforations had been trimmed from the top of the block, it could be from one of the four sheets stated to have the perforations omitted from the fifth horizontal row only (i.e. item (g) above). But the 'margin' at the top of the block in my opinion precludes this possibility, so again the Handbook record becomes suspect. Secondly, Dr. Andrew Dove of Notts. advises me that he has an imperf. marginal copy of the 1/- in vermilion from the fourth horizontal row. If the Handbook is correct in this case, it follows of necessity that an unique piece was destroyed to obtain Dr. Dove's copy (i.e. the partly imperf. vertical pair originally formed by this stamp and the one immediately below it in the sheet). I suggest it is considerably more likely that the details of this sheet too were wrongly noted, and that it was the top five rows (not four) which were imperf.

It is just conceivable, I suppose, that all of the anomalies I have described result from additional sheets, of different configuration, and unknown when the Handbook information was assembled. But this I think would be stretching the bounds of coincidence and credibility too far. For with the single exception of the 5d (where at least two partly imperf blocks I have seen do confirm the published and accepted data) I know of no material evidence whatsoever in support of the conventionally accepted 'facts' relating to these varieties. There is little doubt that all of them arose from the practice of perforating sheets in two separate operations (sometimes with the same head, sometimes with two different heads). But again with the exception of the 5d, all the positive indications to date point clearly to the last strike of the first perforating operation as the cause of difficulties, not the first strike of the second operation.

Further plateable examples of any of these varieties — particularly of items (a) and (g) — would be of the greatest interest.

Autumn Stampex 1990. Congratulations to the following award-winners in this annual national exhibition (formerly the B.P.E.): Mr. D.J. Holmes, (1d Dominions), small silver gilt and special trophy for the best 20th Century exhibit in the traditional class; Mrs. S. Terry (also for 1d Dominions), silver; Mr. J.G. Evans (½d Mt. Cook), bronze-silver; Mr. E.W. Leppard (Postal history of the N.Z. involvement in the Middle East Campaign 1940–45), bronze-silver; and Mr. D.J. Armitage (N.Z. Healths), silver-bronze in the Melville competition class A.

NEW ISSUES AND VARIETIES by Angela Nicholson
(from C.P. Newsletter Monthly, November 1990)

1990 Heritage — The Maori — The sixth and final issue in the N.Z. Heritage series was released on 24 August, the opening day of the N.Z. 1990 World Stamp Exhibition. Entitled "The Maori", the set portrays various aspects of authentic Maori design. The stamps and accompanying First Day Cover were designed by Ken Hall of Christchurch.

The set was printed in Australia by Leigh-Mardon Pty Ltd., using the lithographic process. The paper was supplied by Coated Paper Ltd. of the U.K. Sheets are comprised of 100 stamps in 10 rows of 10 and each stamp measures perf. 14 x 14½. The mesh of the paper is horizontal.

Our English branch notes an interesting variety on the \$ 1.50 "War Dance" stamp; In R7/2 there is a large red spot on the left cheek of the foremost Maori. This variety lasted for at least 140 sheets and may be aptly termed the "careless tattooist" flaw!

Special Frama Issue — A special \$ 1.00 commemorative Frama Label was also issued on the opening day of the N.Z. 1990 Exhibition. The Frama features the Auckland Harbour Bridge and the N.Z. 1990 logo and labels were available mint, used or on First Day Cover.

150th Anniversary of the Postage Stamp — New Zealand marked the 150th Anniversary of the First Postage Stamp with the release of a miniature sheet and First Day Cover on 29 August. Designed by Allan Mitchell of Wellington, the miniature sheet contains six 40c stamps featuring British Monarchs from Queen Victoria to Queen Elizabeth II.

The miniature sheet was printed by the intaglio process, from plates engraved by the British American Banknote Inc. of Canada. Printing was carried out in Australia by Leigh-Mardon Pty. Ltd. and the paper was supplied by Harrison & Sons of the U.K. The mesh of the paper is horizontal and each stamp measures perf. 14½ x 14.

Aviation Frama — A new vending machine postage label was issued on 12 September, replacing the existing N.Z. Flag design. The label depicts the Boeing and Westervelt sea plane which carried the first scheduled airmail service in New Zealand. The label and accompanying First Day Cover were designed by Maurice Conly of Waikanae.

1990 Christmas Issue — On this year's Christmas issue, released on 12 September, artist Sally Simons of Kaeo has taken the unusual step of portraying angels in robes of purple, instead of the more usual silver and gold. While in principle this is a good idea, unfortunately the similarity in colour and design has resulted in a set of stamps which are difficult to tell apart at a glance.

One N.Z. Post staff member told us that this causes problems during peak hours when counter sales staff are at their busiest.

Four denominations were chosen as follows:— 40c, \$ 1.00, \$ 1.50 and \$ 1.80. Unlike previous issues, there is no 35c stamp for Christmas cards as N.Z. Post has now discontinued this special rate. These stamps were not issued in booklet form.

On the technical side, the set was printed in Australia by Leigh-Mardon Pty. Ltd., using the lithographic process. Sheets are comprised of 100 stamps in 10 rows of 10 and each stamp measures perf. 14½. The mesh of the paper is vertical.

Other New Releases — A special album containing all six Heritage stamp issues was released on 24 August. This proved to be very popular with collectors and the limited print run of only 10,000 albums sold quickly.

The 1990 New Zealand Stamp Pack and 1990 First Day Covers pack were both released on 12 September.

Booklet News — The 6*kiwi reprint of the 40c Brown Kiwi reported in September's Notes is now available in booklet form.

A new \$4.00 booklet was issued in August. The booklet contains 10 x 40c Brown Kiwi stamps and a pane of three blue Fastpost labels. The stamps have cream gum and measure perf. 14½ x 14. The mesh of the paper is horizontal. The cleverly designed cover portrays a strip of 40c Brown Kiwi stamps on a black background and incorporates a tab with punched hole for easy storage on a display hook. The tab contains an overlap which holds the cover of the booklet shut. The cover is released by bending back the tab. All booklets examined to date contain 6 kiwi symbols above the colour dots in the left selvedge. We have not as yet seen a booklet with plain selvedge and this poses an interesting question — if only the strips incorporating the Imprint markings were used in the manufacture of these booklets, what happened to the rest of the sheets? We would be interested to hear from any reader with further information.

KING GEORGE V SURFACE PRINTED, ½d — 3d (contd.)

- 1201(a) 2d De La Rue (K18a).** Set of four shades (yellow, pale yellow, orange yellow, deep orange). Fine mint £22.50
- (b) **As above.** Superb unhinged mint copy in the rare **very pale yellow** shade. Quite distinctive and unmistakable £22.50
- (c) **As above.** Superfine mint block of 4 in orange-yellow £16.00
- (d) **As above.** Corner block of 4, (with sheet serial number), in the **pale yellow** shade. Hinged in selvedge only £28.75
- (e) **As above.** Bottom marginal block of 4 with lower right stamp showing the major "Flaws on Neck" variety (Plate 31, R10/18). Scarce, and very seldom seen — found in some sheets on De La Rue paper only £95.00
- (Note: The above R10/18 variety is not mentioned in the N.Z. Handbooks. However, R1/19 from the same plate is recorded as having developed identical flaws — we know of no evidence to support this, and believe the Handbook to be in error.)
- (f) **As above.** Marginal block of 4, overprinted 'Official' (KO18a). Selvedge hinge only — stamps superb unhinged £18.50
- (g) **As above.** 'Official' blocks of 4 in yellow and orange-yellow, plus a single in pale yellow. All superfine mint £37.50
- (h) **As above.** Another 'Official' block, one stamp showing **massive** damage to the letter 'O' — less than 50% remains, and the overprint reads JFFICIAL! Spectacular £22.50
- 1202(a) 3d De La Rue (K19a).** Both listed shades (chocolate and deep chocolate), unhinged mint £13.50
- (b) **As above.** The same two shades, but fine lightly hinged copies £7.75
- (c) **As above.** The same shades yet again, but in finest mint blocks of 4 £40.00
- (d) **As above.** Superb mint block of 4 overprinted 'Official' (KO19a) £32.50

1203(a) ½d Experimental Issue (K13b). This is the scarce one on paper of typical Cowan appearance and texture, but with De La Rue-type watermark. Mint unhinged ..	£11.50
(b) As above. Unhinged mint block of 4	£45.00
1204(a) ½d Jones (K13c). Set of two shades, green and yellow-green. Fine mint	£6.00
(b) As above. The same two shades, but in marginal blocks of 4, unhinged mint ..	£35.00
(c) As above. Set of two, unhinged mint, one on the normal Jones paper, the other on the distinctly thicker grade (K13cZ)	£9.25
(d) As above. Booklet pane of six stamps, all selvages intact (W4cZ). Minor gum tone in left selvedge (invisible on face)	£65.00
(e) As above. Finest mint copy overprinted Official (KO13c)	£2.25
(f) As above. 'Official' block of 4, superfine mint	£12.50
1205(a) 2d Jones (K18b). Copies in pale yellow and pale dull yellow. Finest mint	£5.50
(b) As above, but in superb mint blocks of 4. Two blocks	£27.50
1206(a) 3d Jones (K19b). Single copy, mint unhinged	£17.25
(b) As above, but fine lightly hinged	£11.50
(c) As above. Two unhinged mint blocks of 4 in magnificent shades of chocolate and deep chocolate (normal paper)	£135.00
(d) As above. Unhinged mint block of 4 on the notably thicker paper (K19bZ) ..	£65.00
(e) As above. Another thicker paper block, this one marginal with part sheet serial number, in quite the palest chocolate colour we have seen in any 3d issue. Very striking and finest mint	£75.00
(f) As above. Single copy in deep chocolate. Finest mint	£11.50
(g) As above. Two brilliantly contrasting 'Official' shade blocks — a deep chocolate on the normal paper, and a very pale chocolate on the thicker paper (the colour in the latter block very closely matches that of lot 1206(e) above. Superfine mint	£120.00

(More next month)

PLATE BLOCKS — THE SCARCE, THE RARE, AND THE UNIQUE!

A wonderful opportunity to treat yourself to that extra-special Christmas present.

1207(a) 1d Universal Bottom selvedge block of 4 with mixed perfs. from the Dot Plates (G8d), with Dot Plate II marking above the central selvedge arrow. The only complete example of this marking known to us. Minor stain at extreme top left corner of the block, otherwise remarkably fine mint. Cat. \$4000	£875.00
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- (b) **As above.** Another 'Dot Plates' mixed perfs. block. Bottom selvage has in this case been largely removed, but miraculously the Plate III marking remains intact in the wide gap between the wayward line of perf. 14 and the reperf. II line! Again the only complete marking known to us. Minor gum tone barely visible on face £750.00
- (c) **As above.** Waterlow Trial Plate No. W1, in marginal block of 4. Small green expertising mark on back of one stamp. Finest mint. Cat. \$ 500 £150.00
- (d) **As above.** Waterlow Trial Plate No. W2, centrally placed in marginal block of six. Very fine mint. Cat. \$ 500+ £160.00
- (e) **As above.** Royle Trial Plate No. R1, centrally placed in marginal block of six, Superb mint. Cat. \$ 500+ £160.00
- (f) **As above.** Royle Trial Plate No. R2 in similar block of six, similarly fine. Cat. \$ 500+ £160.00
- (g) **As above.** Royle Four-Dot Plate Marking in selvage block of 4 (marking central and complete). One of just three examples known to us. Very fine mint. Cat. \$ 6,000 £1,500.00
- (h) **As above.** Royle Trial Plate No. R1, in marginal block of four of the final comb perf. 14 x 14½ issue (G10f). Perf. fault, and minor hinge stain at top, but an attractive and rare block. Cat. \$ 1750 £100.00
- (i) **As above.** Royle Trial Plate No. R2, again in block of four of the comb perf. issue, but in this case very fine mint. Cat. \$ 1750 £600.00
- (j) **As above.** Another block including the R1 plate number, but on the perf. 14 issue overprinted Official (GO10a), and very rare thus, only two or three examples being recorded (first listed as recently as 1983). Tiny gum tone on one stamp, otherwise fine mint £425.00
- 1208 King George V 4d.** Plate No. 44 in superb corner block of 4 (full selvages), perf. 14 x 14½ (K5g), in the rare violet shade. A single stamp from the normal purple range of shades is included for comparison £275.00

- 1209 King George V 1/-.** Not quite a plate block, but the nearest it's possible to obtain — the unique corner pair, imperf., in vermilion, with plate no. 27. From the sole recorded partly imperf. sheet issued at Wairoa in 1922 — see this month's Notes. Horizontal crease in selvage, clear of stamps and plate number. One of the most important 20th century items in N.Z. philately, and certainly the best of all proving pieces (all the less-rare 1/- imperfs. in orange vermilion were printed from one or both of the later plates numbered 41 and 42).
The unique imperf. plate no. pair £2,000.00

- 1210 King George V 8d Official (KO10d).** A magnificent plate block of four (with full corner selvage and pl. no. 39, of course). Very lightly hinged in selvage only, otherwise sheer perfection £675.00
- 1211(a) 1935 1d Kiwi.** Superfine mint plate block (pl. no. B2), perf. 13½ x 14 (L2b). £275.00

(b)	As above. Equally fine plate block of the same issue overprinted Official (LO2b). Even scarcer than the unoverprinted issue	£350.00
1212	1935 2d Whare. Plate block (no. 1B) of the original issue with variety Watermark Inverted (L4aZ). Individual examples of this 'invert' are seldom seen — the plate block must be of extreme rarity (we know of no other). Minor perf. tone at right centre, otherwise superfine mint	£230.00
1213	1935 3/- Mt. Egmont. The rare experimental printing with watermark inverted-and-reversed (L14c), in plate block of 4 . The key plate block of the entire issue — only 50 sheets were printed. Single very light selvedge hinge, stamps unhinged. An insignificant vertical crease affects nothing but the price (which would otherwise be £1,750)	£900.00
1214	Q.E. 2d Original Design. The unique, and unexplained, plate block of six, with the plate number (18) printed double, although the adjacent printer's imprint, and all stamps, are quite normal. The spectacular piece (N4aY), both impressions of the plate number being strong and clear	£145.00
1215(a)	Q.E. 1/- Die 1B (N10b). Plate block of 4, with pl. nos. 1B3B. One stamp very lightly hinged. Immaculate	£375.00
(b)	As above. Printer's imprint block of 4, brilliant unhinged	£375.00
1216(a)	Q.E. 2½d on 3d Provisional. Imprint/plate block (of eight stamps), plate no. 18, all stamps having the narrow setting of the surcharge (N42a). A great rarity	£400.00
(b)	As above. Imprint/plate block of six, plate no. 19, with wide surcharge setting (N42b). Of the total of five examples known, this one must be unique, for it is superb used	£385.00
(c)	As above. Completing a marvellous trio of these abnormal plate blocks, we have an imprint/plate block of six, plate no. 20, with wide surcharge setting, mint unhinged. One of just four such blocks recorded	£400.00
1217	1960 Pictorial 9d. Plate no. 14A15, in unhinged mint corner block of 4. Apart from the chalky paper 4d, far and away the scarcest of the 1960 Pictorial plate blocks	£250.00

N.Z. COMMEMORATIVES (Continued)

All offers are mint unless otherwise stated.

1218(a)	1959 Red Cross (S84). Imprint/plate and sheet value blocks, six stamps each block	£6.00
(b)	As above. Top marginal vertical pair of stamps with an abnormally wide top selvedge, and showing stamp-wide blue "buffer" bar high in the selvedge — these bars actually 'belong' to the bottom row of another sheet! A guillotining error we have not previously seen in this issue — matching normal pair is also included	£15.00
(c)	As above. The same top selvedge "blue buffer bar" error but in a sheet value block of 4 (normal sheet value included for comparison)	£35.00

(d) As above. Corner block of 4 with R1/1 flaw (a Vol. 4 listed variety)	£5.00
(e) As above. Marginal block of 4 with R7/5 flaw (also in Vol. 4)	£5.00
(f) As above. Two matching marginal blocks, showing two different states of the R7/5 flaw	£15.00
(g) As above. Marginal block of 4 with R9/2 flaw (in Vol. 4)	£5.00
(h) As above. Marginal block of 4 with R12/2 flaw (in Vol. 4)	£5.00
(i) As above. Marginal block of 6 with R11/6, 13/5 (both in Vol. 4) and R13/6 retouch — SV84a(b)	£12.50
(j) As above. Two matching marginal blocks of 6, both with R11/6 and 13/5 varieties, and showing two quite distinctly different states of the R13/6 retouch	£27.50
(k) As above. Two different illustrated F.D.C.'s	£5.00
1219(a) 1960 Westland (S85—87). 2d imprint and plate blocks of six, 3d combined imprint/plate block of nine (4 with dot), 8d imprint and plate blocks of six. The five blocks	£25.00
(b) As above. Sheet value block of 4 for each value	£9.00
(c) As above. Two 3d stamps, nice orange shades	£1.00
(d) As above. Used set of three in blocks of 4	£9.00
(e) As above. Official illustrated F.D.C.	£6.00
(f) As above. Three F.D.C.'s each bearing a block of 4, one value each cover	£8.50
1220(a) 1962 Telegraph (S88/89). Seven blocks, each of 4 stamps, comprising 3d imprint, sheet value block and colour-dot block from the bottom of a sheet; 8d three similar blocks plus a plate block (needs only a 3d plate for completion)	£30.00
(b) As above. Two brilliant 3d green contrasts, and two fine 8d red shades, each in block of 4	£9.50
(c) As above. The same shades, but single stamps	£2.50
(d) As above. Block of four 3d stamps, with a green doctor blade flaw running vertically through two stamps	£10.00
(e) As above. 3d pair, showing blurred brown variety (the bottom stamp also shows printing drag through NEW ZEALAND). Attractive	£7.50
(f) As above. 3d stamp with defectively printed green — in many parts the green design is missing (+ normal copy)	£7.50