

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN

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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

25c HAURAKI GULF NATIONAL PARK (P17a)

A MAJOR NEW DISCOVERY

Nearly 20 years after this stamp was issued, I have found two mint blocks — a total of 18 stamps — **with the design printed on the gum.** To be absolutely certain of my 'diagnosis', I sacrificed one copy (actually it was slightly damaged) by floating it face downwards on water for a couple of minutes. Result — a completely blank bit of paper! The design came cleanly away with the gum. So I can give an absolute cast-iron guarantee that the 17 stamps remaining (all perfect, incidentally) are the real thing. There is no watermark in this issue, of course. Had there been one, it would have been reversed, since the gum was on the correct (unsurfaced) side of the paper. There are, however, two peculiarities which make the variety stamps immediately recognisable. First, the brown colour, printing three of the moored yachts — normally a deep, bright shade — is notably pale and dull. Second, the orange colour, printing the remaining two yachts and their mooring buoys, has almost totally failed to 'take', leaving only shadowy traces of this colour. Both of these abnormalities, I am certain, can be attributed to the abnormal printing surface. (i.e. the gum).

This is only the fifth recorded instance of a 'printed on the gum' variety in modern N.Z. issues. The others are the Q.E. 4d Official, 1962 Health 2½d + 1d, 1965 Parliamentary Conference 4d, and the 1969 18c Wool Industry.

The new find will, of course, be listed in the C.P. Catalogue. For the record, the stamps were from plate 1a x 5. In theory, at least 82 further copies from the '1a' sheet, and 100 in a 'plate 1' sheet would have been issued (since printing was from double-pane plates), but I very much doubt if any of these will turn up now. Still, one never knows — every copy is now worth a second (and third!) look.

The Waterlow & Sons Perforations of 1898–1901. These occur (as far as New Zealand is concerned) in the London Print Pictorials of 1898, and the London Print 1d Universal of 1901. They are notable for two outstanding characteristics: firstly, the holes are invariably small, neat and clean-cut; and secondly, measurement on the perf. gauge gives extremely variable results.

The catalogues generally employ the vague description 'Perf. 12-16', but this in fact covers a multitude of differences in individual stamps. A list of no less than 34 different combinations is given on Permanent Page E3 of the C.P. Catalogue, with the rider that there may be other combinations not listed. I would add here that there **certainly** are others (the actual number of these must be approaching infinity), including all sorts of irregular compounds, even to the extent of all four sides of a given stamp varying in gauge.

There were three factors which together conspired to bring about this extraordinary variation in the measurement of these perforations. One, several different heads, of differing nominal gauges, were used; two, the gauge **within** at least some of the heads varied quite markedly (in other words, the pins were not uniformly spaced along the length of the heads); and three, a peculiar, crab-like progression of the head between strikes, so that the opposite sides of a particular stamp were not always perforated by the same section of the head.

In my view, stamps showing these perforation differences are of no great significance or consequence in themselves, but there is no doubt that over the years they have been (and still are) a source of endless fascination to some. I recently came across the results of two separate and unconnected studies made in the 1920s, the object of both apparently being to establish some kind of "rarity table" of the various combinations. One involved the recording of the perfs. of 3000 copies (of the ½d, 1d, 2d and 4d Pictorials), and the other a similar analysis of some 13,000 unspecified copies, which for convenience I'll call Study 1 and Study 2 respectively. The following is a tabulation of the published results of both exercises (in reverse order of rarity as established by the smaller study, since it was evidently the more detailed and precise of the two. We leave interested readers to draw their own conclusions from this table.

Perf.	Study 1	Study 2	Perf.	Study 1	Study 2
15	1516	6240	14 x 12½	4	1
14	298	3120	14 x 14½	3	—
15 x 14	273	2210	14½ x 14	3	—
15 x 14½	212	a few	12 x 14	2	—
15 x 16	210	a few	13 x 14	2	—
16	194	a few	13½	2	—
14½	59	a few	12½	1	1
15 x 15½	57	a few	14 x 15	1	1
14½ x 15	39	a few	14 x 13	1	—
15½ x 16	31	—	13 x 15½	1	—
15½	30	a few	12½ x 13½	1	—
15 x 13½	24	—	12½ x 14	1	—
14 x 13½	18	1	13½ x 13	1	—
13½ x 14	9	—	15 x 13	—	1
14 x 12	7	1			

KING GEORGE V SURFACE PRINTED (Concluded)

- 301(a) 1½d Orange-brown, Cowan Paper, Perf. 14 (K17c). Single copy, mint unhinged. £5.50
- (b) As above. Two excellent shades (in an issue not noted for shades). Finest mint. £7.25
- (c) As above. Similar contrasts, but in finest mint blocks of four £35.00

(d)	As above. Top marginal block of four, with selvedge arrow. Very light selvedge hinge, stamps perfect unhinged	£22.50
(e)	As above. Fine mint copy, overprinted Official (KO17c)	£2.00
(f)	As above. 'Official' block of four, superfine mint	£9.75
(g)	As above. Another 'Official' block, this one marginal, and including the 'No Stop' variety (KO17cZ). Superb unhinged mint	£57.50
302(a)	1½d Orange-brown, Cowan Paper, Perf. 14 x 15 (K17e). A scarce stamp, very fine mint	£20.00
(b)	As above. Marginal block of four, light selvedge hinge, stamps brilliant unhinged. A rare block	£175.00
(c)	As above. Fine mint copy overprinted Official (KO17e)	£10.00
(d)	As above, but superb used (c.d.s. cancel), and scarce thus	£15.00
(e)	As above. Mint 'Official' block of four. A little very faint gum toning does not affect perfect appearance	£30.00
303(a)	2d Cowan Paper, Perf. 14 x 15 (K18d). Single copy, mint unhinged	£4.50
(b)	As above. Set of four excellent shades, finest mint	£12.75
(c)	As above. Similar set of shades, but in gorgeous blocks of four. Minute gum thin on one stamp in one block, condition otherwise superfine mint	£57.50
(d)	As above. Unhinged mint copy in the deep orange shade with variety "Offset on Back" (K18dZ). Some offsets on this issue tend to be rather faint — this example is unusually full and strong	£17.50
(e)	As above. The same variety, but in a superfine mint block of four. One only .	£65.00
304(a)	2d Cowan Paper, Perf. 14 (K18e). Shades in this issue are, if anything, even more striking than in the 14 x 15s, as evidenced by this quartet, ranging from deep orange to pale yellow. Finest mint	£12.75
(b)	As above, four outstanding shades, but in superfine mint blocks of four. Brilliant!	£60.00
(c)	As above. Another superb mint block of four with one stamp officially patched in — the latter is in a different shade and has the watermark in a different position	£18.50
(d)	As above. Top selvedge copy, with variety "Imperf. at Top" (K18eY). Superb mint	£27.50
(e)	As above. Set of two overprinted 'Official', one normal, the other with the listed 'No Stop' variety (KO18eZ). Minor gum tone on the variety stamp does not show on face, but allows	£12.50

305(a)	3d Cowan Paper, Perf. 14 x 15 (K19c). Unhinged mint copy	£6.50
(b)	As above. The C.P. Catalogue lists three shades — chocolate, deep chocolate, red chocolate. Here they are, mint unhinged	£20.00
(c)	As above. For those who want to go one better, we can offer a set of four superb shades — the three listed, plus an outstanding dark chocolate. Fine, lightly hinged	£15.00
(d)	As above. Superfine mint block of four in red chocolate or deep chocolate. Each block	£22.50
(e)	As above. Finest mint block of four including prominent R6/8 Flaw on Face variety (K19cY)	£28.50
(f)	As above. Another block (deep chocolate shade), with vertical perfs. misplaced to the left so that they fall completely on the design, giving the appearance of a block imperf. vertically. An eye-catching block, superfine mint	£30.00
(g)	As above. Yet another deep chocolate block, this one with a huge pre-printing paper crease affecting two stamps. The crease has subsequently opened out, making for another real eye-catcher	£35.00
(h)	As above. Unhinged mint copy with variety Watermark Inverted (K19cZ). One or two tiny and negligible gum tones hence only (Cat. \$ 110)	£20.00
(i)	As above. Set of two unhinged mint copies (in different shades) overprinted Official, one normal, the other with the Flaw on Face variety (K19cY) ...	£30.00
(j)	As above. Superb mint 'Official' block of four, one stamp having the 'No Stop' variety (K19cZ)	£50.00
306(a)	Cowan Paper, Perf. 14 (K19d). Fine mint copy, lightly hinged	£4.75
(b)	As above. Superfine mint blocks of four in brilliant shade contrasts (deep, deep chocolate and pale red chocolate)	£62.50
(c)	As above. The perf. 14 'Official' (K19d) is a peculiarly elusive stamp in mint — particularly, as here, in unhinged block of four	£72.50
307(a)	½d Cowan Paper, Reversed Wmk. (K13g). Unhinged mint copy	£5.00
(b)	As above. This is an issue not noted for shades, but we can offer two surprisingly good contrasts, finest mint	£6.50
(c)	As above. Similarly good contrasting shades, in mint blocks of four. Tiny gum adhesion on one stamp, otherwise superfine	£28.50
(d)	As above. An absolutely superb booklet pane (all selvages intact) with 'Kodak' advertisements (W4eZ). The presence of 'Kodak' adverts. is your certain guarantee of the reversed watermark on both this ½d and the 1d Dominion — 'Kodaks' appear on no other paper. Single light hinge, and pristine fresh ...	£80.00

(e)	As above. Unhinged mint copy overprinted 'Official'. Scarce	£7.50
308(a)	2d Cowan Paper, Reversed Wmk. (K18f). Superfine mint example, very lightly hinged	£7.00
(b)	As above. Marginal block of four, lightest of light hinges in selvage, all stamps perfect unhinged	£52.50
(c)	As above. Again we list just one shade, but here are two quite remarkable contrasts of orange yellow and yellow – the latter is fully worthy of catalogue recognition. Finest mint	£15.00
(d)	As above. Similar contrasts, but in superb mint blocks of four	£72.50
(e)	As above. Only the second used item in this listing, but another good one – a fine used copy with c.d.s. cancellation	£25.00
309(a)	1½d Orange-brown, Wiggins Teape Paper (K17d). Another scarce one – perfect mint unhinged	£32.50
(b)	As above, but lightly hinged, and very fine	£17.50
(c)	As above. Copy of superfine appearance, but with slightly discoloured gum. A splendid space-filler at only	£8.50
(d)	As above. Marginal block of four, lightly hinged in selvage only, all stamps superb unhinged	£135.00
(e)	As above. Corner block of four with sheet serial number. Couple of light bends visible only on reverse – facially immaculate	£82.50
310(a)	2d Wiggins Teape Paper, Perf. 14 x 15 (K18g). Unhinged mint copy	£6.00
(b)	As above. Set of four magnificent shades, from lemon-yellow through to orange	£15.00
(c)	As above. Similar set of shades, but in superfine mint blocks of four. Glorious material!	£75.00
(d)	As above. Copy (in orange) with variety Watermark Inverted (K18gY). Mint unhinged	£18.00
(e)	As above, the same 'invert', but lightly hinged and very fine	£12.50
(f)	As above. Top marginal copy, with no selvage watermark, and only the merest trace of watermark on the perms. at the foot of the stamp. Most unusual. Selvage hinge only	£10.00
(g)	As above. Pair, imperf. Not a properly issued variety, but interesting nonetheless, and cheap at	£15.00
311(a)	2d Wiggins Teape Paper, Perf. 14 (K18h). Finest mint copy, lightly hinged ..	£3.00

- (b) **As above.** Set of two, fine mint — we hesitate to describe these as shades, for they are actually different colours, in the extremes of orange and pale yellow. A remarkable pair from the same issue £6.50
- (c) **As above.** The same two extremes, but in superb mint blocks of four £37.50
- (d) **As above.** A previously unrecorded shade of ochre-yellow. Apart from the colour, which is quite distinctive, the print too is peculiar, all the detail of the background, and the King's hair and beard being blurred and indistinct. The striking new discovery (to be listed in the next revision of the C.P. Catalogue), available in unhinged mint single at £20, or marginal block of four (one block only) at £82.50
- (e) **As above.** Top marginal copy with variety Imperf. at Top (K18hX), superfine mint £35.00

1966 HEALTH VARIETIES

A short list of interesting and attractive offers.

- 312(a) 3d + 1d Bellbird.** Miniature sheet with **complete triple perforations** at left. Double perfs. are already known, and listed. This major variety is previously unrecorded (and of course unlisted, but it certainly will be). Mint unhinged £95.00
- (b) **As above.** Unhinged mint copy with major (2½mm) shift of the black colour in a north-easterly direction giving, among other abnormalities, "twin birds (of different species!) on perch". Spectacular. Normal stamp included for comparison £35.00
- 313(a) 4d + 1d Weka.** Miniature sheet with **complete double perforations** at left. Another completely unrecorded variety. Mint unhinged £75.00
- (b) **As above.** Strip of three, left hand pair normal, right hand stamp with red-brown colour largely omitted, due to lift of printing pressure (the pressure-release line is clearly evident). Very striking variety. The strip, unhinged mint £45.00
- (c) **As above.** A most unusual **double** misplacement — of the green colour, shifted **downwards**, and of the perforations, shifted **upwards**. With very peculiar results, too, as comparison with a normal stamp (included) demonstrates. Mint unhinged £17.50

1969 LAW SOCIETY CENTENARY (S115a—117a)

- 314(a) A complete set of fourteen plate blocks as listed in the C.P. Catalogue (3c x 5, 10c x 2, 18c x 7). Includes the rare 18c plates 1221 and 1a2a2a1a, and extremely difficult to assemble. Negligible gum adhesions on one of the 18c blocks — not the rare ones — otherwise superb unhinged mint throughout £187.50**
- (b) The rare 18c plate blocks (1221 and 1a2a2a1a) offered as a pair. Perfect unhinged mint. Missing from most collections £145.00

1967 ROSS DEPENDENCY 15c INVERTED WATERMARK

A superb range of offers of this scarce variety (RD11aZ), Cat. C.P. \$ 125 (S.G. £75) per stamp — all perfect mint unhinged.

315	Marginal copy	£45.00
316	Plate block (of four stamps). First we have seen	£200.00
317	Imprint block (of six stamps). Again the first time we have seen this	£285.00
318	Sheet value block (of four stamps)	£185.00

KING GEORGE V 'COLOUR PRINTS'

All items offered are superb imperf. blocks of four (without any hint of the blue crayon marks which frequently deface these to a greater or lesser extent), printed on the 'Pictorial' paper as used for the provisional printings of the 1½d, 2d, 3d and 6d issued stamps, and with each impression overprinted COLOUR/PRINT in black.

319	1½d (Type K1). Printed in deep slate black	£135.00
320	2d (Type K2). Printed in deep grey violet	£135.00
321	3d (Type K4). Listed in the N.Z. Handbook (Vol 1) as printed in chestnut, chocolate or deep chocolate, but a more accurate description of the colour of this block is dull mouse-brown	£135.00
322	4d (Type K5). Printed in orange	£135.00
323(a)	4½d (Type K6). Printed in bronze-green. The merest hint of a bend affecting the lower pair, invisible on face	£115.00
	(b) As above. Another block, printed in deep myrtle green	£135.00
324(a)	7½d (Type K9). Printed in dull chocolate	£135.00
	(b) As above. Another block, printed in deep red brown	£135.00
325	9d (Type K11). Printed in olive green — considerably deeper than any of the issued sage-green shades	£135.00

1967 — 69 PICTORIALS — UNMOUNTED MINT

326	½c — 7c (OD1—OD9). Collection of plate and imprint blocks, includes 29 blocks (156 stamps), all unmounted mint. Not complete, but a marvellous basis for further expansion	£37.50
327	8c — 30c (OD10—15). Imprint/plate block of each (8c, 10c, 15c, 20c, 25c, 30c) including both 15c. The seven blocks (58 stamps) also unhinged mint	£70.00
328	\$ 1 (OD17). Imprint/plate block of 6, unhinged mint and sheer perfection ..	£82.50

- 329** \$2 Magenta (OD18a). Imprint/plate block of 10, same tip-top quality.
Cat. \$600 and a very special offer, this month only, at £125.00
- 330** 7c — 28c Redrawn Designs (OD20 — 27). Twelve imprint/plate blocks, including
7c, 8c x 2, 10c, 18c (block of 4), 20c (block of 4), 25c, 7½c x 4 (imprint and
plate blocks, both wmk.'s), 28c. Again not complete, but a superb unmounted
mint lot £50.00

RECENT ISSUES

- 1990 Heritage** (6th and final series) The Maori, 40c, 50c, 60c, 80c, \$1.00, \$1.50 —
issued 24/8/90.
- Mint set of 6 stamps £2.95
- Complete set of 6 imprint blocks (6 stamps per block) £20.50
- Official illustrated F.D.C. (Wanganui pmk.) £3.20

- 1990 150th Anniv. of Postage Stamps.** Miniature Sheet, printed in blue, features all
monarch's Queen Victoria to the present H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth II. (Issued 29/8/90)
- Mint Miniature Sheet £1.50
- Miniature Sheet on Official F.D.C. (Wanganui pmk.) £1.75

- 1990 Christmas** 40c, \$1.00, \$1.50, \$1.80 (Issued 12/9/90)
- Mint set of 4 stamps £2.80
- Complete set of 4 imprint blocks (6 stamps per block) £19.50
- Official illustrated F.D.C. (Wanganui pmk.) £3.05

London '90. Philatelic items issued in support of the May London '90 International Stamp
Exhibition.

- Miniature Sheet**, featuring the 1770 Map of New Zealand, and including the
50c stamp from the 'Ships' set £1.50

- \$4 Mt. Cook Booklet**, the cover is overprinted with the London '90 Logo
(plain binding selvage) £4.00

- Ditto.**, a similar \$4 Booklet with the four colour-code dots, but without
any kiwi markings (proving that this booklet came from the original
making of these \$4 Booklets — see August 1990 Bulletin note) £5.00

1990 New Zealand/Ross Dependency Birds. 40c, 50c, 60c, 80c, 100c, 150c (issued 7/11/1990).

- Mint set of 6 stamps £2.85
- Used set of 6 stamps £3.10
- Complete set of six imprint blocks, mint £19.75
- Official illustrated F.D.C. (Wanganui pmk.) £3.10
- Presentation Pack.** Includes all 6 stamps, is highly informative, and is
printed to give a real flavour of the Antarctic chill.
(Post paid) £5.50