

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



PUBLISHED BY CAMPBELL PATERSON LTD.

P.O. BOX 17, WOKING, SURREY GU22 7BL

PHONE : 0483 715887 ISSUED MONTHLY FAX : 0483 747149

All lots offered on approval subject to being unsold
Postage and Insurance/Registration extra on all offers

U.K. : 50p up to £100, £2.50 over £100, Overseas at cost)



VOLUME XXVIII

NUMBER 9

APRIL 1991

N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

King George VI 1½d Red. One of the plates used to print this stamp on the final, coarse paper issue (M4c) was numbered 129. On R9/22 from this plate there is prominent retouching of the background shading above the portrait. This is one of the more frequently seen plate varieties, since it occurs on the top left stamp in a plate block of the listed size (six stamps).

A footnote below the variety listing in the C.P. Catalogue (on Temp. Page M17) states: "This stamp without retouch exists on the Post Office (archives) sheet, but has never yet been seen elsewhere". That statement — based upon the knowledge of, and information supplied by, the late Frank Mohr — accords with my own experience. Over the years I must have seen score upon score, if not hundreds of examples, and every one has shown the retouching. But as I write I have in front of me a plate block including R9/22 **without** the variety. This places the new discovery in a similar category to the well-documented pre-retouch state of R10/22 on the redrawn Q E 1d plate 11, of which only a small handful of examples have ever been recorded. But there is one important, and rather curious difference. In the case of the Q.E. 1d, it is immediately evident from the pre-retouch state exactly why the subsequent extensive retouching was necessary — the printed design in its original state was clearly imperfect and unsatisfactory. In the case of the K.G. VI 1½d, however, I can find no reason for the attention it received. In the plate block I have, R9/22 appears perfectly normal, even under magnification, and just like its five companion stamps in the block. So, it is possible that there was an intermediate and ultra-short-lived state in which some defect developed, and which also has never been seen?

In any event, this new find is one of those unusual instances of a stamp which is normal in all respects being in fact a great rarity. Our Catalogue listings will of course be suitably amended in due course.

1969 8c Fruit Industry (OD21a). As documented in our Catalogue, all of the Harrison — printed stamps in the OD series printed from March 1968 onwards had PVA gum. This included reprints of some values already issued with gum arabic (4c, 30c, 50c, \$ 1), and the entire issue of the re-designed 15c (OD12b) and \$ 2 (OD18b).

However, our experience and understanding has always been that, like the earlier Harrison printings, all De le Rue and Bradbury, Wilkinson printed stamps (that is, ½c — 3c, 5c, 7c, 7½c, and the Trade Promotion 7c, 8c, 18c and 20c) appeared with gum arabic throughout their currency.

Until now, that is. For we have just come across a plate block of the 8c Fruit Industry (with plate no. 1a1a1a1a, incidentally), unmistakably with PVA gum. In addition to the gum difference, which is obvious and readily recognisable, the paper itself appears whiter than normal.

Readers are asked to check their collections, particularly of all the Bradbury, Wilkinson values, and to report any variation from the uniformly smooth and glossy gum normally associated with these stamps. For those who may be unsure what they are looking for, we suggest they compare the gums of, for example, the \$2 magenta and the \$2 multicolour, or of the two 15c stamps.

NEW ISSUE AND VARIETY NOTES

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

1991 Sheep Issue. The most recent New Zealand issue features sheep and the set was released on 23rd January 1991. The set of six stamps was designed by Lindy Fisher of Auckland and portrays (40c) Coopworth, (60c) Perindale, (80c) Corriedale, (\$1.00) Drysdale, (\$1.50) South Suffolk, (\$1.80) Romney. First Day Covers and Presentation Packs were offered by New Zealand Post. The set is pleasing, and while it probably will be more significant to farmers, does highlight the importance of the sheep industry to New Zealand's export drive. The colours in the low values are remarkably similar and this may cause some problem in the Post Offices.

The stamps were printed by Leigh-Mardon Pty. Ltd. Australia by lithography on paper provided by Harrison and Sons Ltd., U.K. Perforation gauges are 14 x 14½.

Variety: We are advised that several values in the set are appearing with both perforated and unperforated left-hand selvages. So far we have only seen the 40c in both states. (Later: We at Woking can confirm the 80c too in both states; it is highly likely that all six values will turn out to exist in both forms.)

Antarctic Birds. In the 50c Wilson Storm Petrel three major shade variations have been noted. All three shades affect the whole appearance of the stamp, but particularly that of the bird itself, which ranges between scarce extremes of rich reddish brown and a dark (cold) brown, with a common intermediate shade. The shade extremes appeared early in the issue and now appear to be almost unavailable. A number of small plate faults were also noted, largely of a transient nature.

1977 Health Issue, 7c + 2c Girl and Dove. Val Palenski of Palmerston North Stamp Centre has pointed out that the major perforation shift announced in our Christmas number (see January Bulletin — Ed.) has been reported previously and there may have been a total of two or three sheets, of which our recently reported supply is a part.

(Footnote: The above feature has been absent from the last two issues of the Bulletin, but readers have not missed out. There were no new issue notes to report from the relevant Newsletters.)

POSTAL HISTORY MISCELLANY

A listing of unusual quality items.

- 401** "Aerogrammes". Small selection, includes four AIRMAIL LETTER CARDS (two printed in blue, plus the two scarce black printed forms), one copy of the later AIR LETTER FORM, together with a 8/6/55 "First Day of Issue" AEROGRAMME and the special 1957 Frozen Meat AEROGRAMME. Seven items all addressed to England (An accompanying copy of a 1974 article gives much detail of the various printings). A superb basis for expansion

£50.00

402(a)	Life Insurance. White window envelope (151 x 90mm) from the Government Life Insurance Office, (with lighthouse illustration in green) dated 29/3/1972 and bearing ½c and 2½c adhesives (X27/28). Genuine used Life Insurance covers are, to say the very least, elusive!	£15.00
(b)	As above. Manilla window envelope (160 x 114mm), blue Government Life Insurance Office illustration, used on 16/3/1978 and bearing a 10c adhesive (X32a)	£12.50
403	United Institute Featherston Military Camp. Illustrated envelope addressed to 'Kakahi via Taumarunui'. Postmarked 14 Mar 17 by the Featherston Military Camp roller cancel, and back stamped with Taumarunui 15 Mar transit roller cancel, and a Kakahi 15 Mar c.d.s. arrival marking. Superb! ..	£47.50
404	1940 Centennial 8d. One of the scarcer F.D.C.'s of the King George VI period (dated 8/3/1940)	£25.00
405(a)	King George VI. Two plain covers, bearing 2d, 4d, 5d, 6d, 8d, 9d, 1/-, 1/3d K.G.VI adhesives (M6, M8 — M14) and postmarked on 1st May 1947, the first day of issue (additional adhesives are ½d, 1d, 1½d, 3d)	£15.00
(b)	As above. First Day Cover for the 1½d scarlet value (M4b) dated 1/2/1944. Another scarce F.D.C. !	£37.50
406	7d Provisional Arms (N43). First Day Cover, dated 14/12/1964. Elusive ..	£10.00
407	Manilla envelope (crest on flap) with seldom seen purple oval handstamp "HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM/NEW ZEALAND" Wellington 9/12/1946 c.d.s., addressed to Hong Kong	£17.50
408(a)	O.H.M.S. /Minister of Works envelope, with OFFICIAL/MINISTER OF WORKS/PAID handstamp, cancelled by Parliament Buildings 11/10/61 c.d.s.	£15.00
(b)	As above. O.H.M.S. /Minister of Industries and Commerce/Wellington envelope with "OFFICIAL/Minister of Industries and Commerce/PAID" handstamp, cancelled by Parliament Buildings 21/9/1961 c.d.s.	£15.00
409	May 1931 Air Cover to Penang, carried on the second Experimental Australia — England Qantas flight. Less than 20 covers were carried on this flight addressed to Penang. The adhesive on this rare example is a 1/3d Lemon Arms and cover is backstamped on arrival at Penang. (Authenticated by the expert committee of the Air Mail Society of N.Z.)	£115.00
410	16 March 1932 Special Survey Flight cover, Dannevirke — Woodville with special cachet and signed by pilot McGregor	£25.00
411	30 April 1932 Special Survey flight covers, each with the special cachet and each signed by pilot McGregor:— (i) Auckland — Dargaville	£17.50
	(ii) Auckland — Whangarei	£17.50
	(iii) Dargaville — Russell	£17.50
	(iv) Russell — Auckland	£17.50
412(a)	28 September 1932 Special Survey flight cover, Okuru — Waiho Gorge, with the special cachet and signed by pilot Renton	£20.00

(b)	As above. The same survey flight, a double-stage cover Waiho Gorge — Okuru — Hokitika, with strikes of the cachets used for both stages, and both cachets signed by pilot Renton	£30.00
413	1932 Christmas Flight Cover , Hastings — Wellington (only 65 carried), with the special cachet and signed by pilot Gerrard	£42.50
414	17 Feb 1934 , Trans-Tasman "Faith in Australia" cover, with the special 7d blue adhesive issued for this flight (V5), and signed by pilot Ulm . The cover was later returned to N.Z. by sea	£62.50
Postal Stationery — the rare, the elusive, and the near-impossible! (All Catalogue nos. are taken from R.D. Samuel's excellent New Zealand Postal Stationery Catalogue).		
415	Q.V. 1886 Complete Reply Card (AU1a), both portions overprinted (diagonally reading downwards) SPECIMEN, in blue. A little fragile along the join, but most attractive. Unused	£75.00
416	Q.V. ONE PENNY PROVISIONAL Lettercard (BA17a), postmarked at Christchurch on 1st JAN 01 (the First Day of Issue). Obviously philatelically inspired, but still rare. Another example recently made over \$400 in a N.Z. auction	£145.00
417	K.G.V 1932 (½d Green) Provisional Postcard (AC21a). Two examples with the HALFPENNY surcharge in blue and purple respectively. Brilliant unused ..	£30.00
418(a)	K.G.V 1932 (1d Field Marshal) Provisional Postcard (AC22a). Three unused cards, with HALFPENNY surcharge in blue, purple and black respectively (the latter is toned, the other two are quite superb)	£40.00
(b)	As above. This unused example has the overprint double, one strike black, the other red . Another marvellous card	£72.50
419(a)	K.G.V/K.E.VII 1932 Provisional Postcard (AC23a), HALFPENNY surcharge in red	£12.50
(b)	As above. Another example, with variety double surcharge, in red . Lovely ..	£55.00
420(a)	Dept. of Education. Q.E. 2d green postcard (AX16b), two copies, unused and used (March 1960)	£22.50
(b)	As above. Two Q.E. 2½d on 2d provisional cards (AX18b), unused and used (July 1963)	£22.50
(c)	As above. Q.E. 2½d green postcard (AX19a), unused	£15.00
(d)	As above. Q.E. 3d provisional postcard "ADDITIONAL/POSTAGE ½d" printed below the 2½d impressed stamp (AX21a), used in Feb. 1966	£7.50
(e)	As above. 3d Q.E. orange, on buff card (AX22c), unused. Corner crease but otherwise fine, and a scarce item	£17.50
(f)	As above. 2½d Q.E. postcard, Rose-red (AX23a), two examples, unused and used	£17.50

WORLD WAR I — N.Z. FORCES POSTMARKS

The following are all superb crisp examples of postal markings used by N.Z. forces in the Middle East. Type numbers refer to illustrations on page 354 of the N.Z. Handbook, Vol. 3.

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| 421 | H.Q.F.P.O., N.Z. DIVISION (Type 23). Two complete strikes tying block of 4 Egyptian stamps to piece, 1915 date | £12.50 |
| 422 | BASE ARMY POST OFFICE/Z (Type 29). Item similar to above, but with four complete strikes of this marking, again 1915 date | £11.50 |
| 423(a) | N.Z. ADVANCED BASE A.P.O. (Type 32). Similar to above, but with two complete strikes dated 1915 | £12.50 |
| (b) | As above, but two 1916 strikes on block of 4 of the N.Z. K.G.V 2d violet, perf. 14 x 14½ (K2b). Lovely! Stamps alone Cat. \$ 180 | £67.50 |

KING GEORGE V RECESS — 'PROVING' BLOCKS

Because of the varying modes of perforating sheets in this series — 14 x 13¼ throughout, 14 x 14½ throughout, 14 x 13¼ over 14 x 14½ and, occasionally, 14 x 14½ over 14 x 13¼ — and because of the timing and incidence of their use, suitable blocks or pieces demonstrating these variations are both desirable and interesting. The most obvious examples are, of course, 'two-perf.' vertical pairs or blocks, but attention is drawn by means of footnotes in the C.P. Catalogue to numerous other less immediately evident pieces. A selection of these is offered below.

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| 424 | 1½d Cowan Paper. Set of two bottom selvedge blocks of four, one perf. 14 x 13¼ (K1a), and therefore from an early '14 x 13¼ throughout' sheet, the other perf. 14 x 14½ (K1b) from a later 'two-perf.' sheet. The two blocks, superfine mint .. | £27.50 |
| 425 | 2½d Deep Blue. Bottom selvedge block of four which presents something of a mystery. Perf. 14 x 13¼, with brownish gum, and therefore from an early perf. 14 x 13¼ throughout printing — but this block is quite definitely in the slate-blue shade, and thus contradicts the general view that all early printings were in deep blue. The block, perfect mint unhinged | £37.50 |
| 426(a) | 4d Yellow. Superb unhinged mint bottom selvedge block of four, perf. 14 x 13¼ (K5a). From the small early printing, and one of the better proving blocks (incidentally in a bright orange-yellow shade) | £37.50 |
| (b) | As above. An alternative piece, proving the same fact by different means — a vertical block of ten (2 x 5) with top selvedge, again in the bright orange-yellow, and again brilliant unhinged. A lovely piece | £75.00 |

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| 427 | 4d Plate 44. The gem of the entire listing — a magnificent block of four, perf. 14 x 13¼ (K5h), with full top selvedge. Rare (see note below K5h in our Catalogue) | £925.00 |
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| 428 | 5d Pale Ultramarine. Bottom selvedge block of four, perf. 14 x 14½ (K7b(2)) — from a sheet with this perf. throughout. Superb mint unhinged | £47.50 |
| 429 | 7½d Deep Red-Brown. Vertical block of ten (2 x 5) with full top right corner selvedge, and sheet serial number. All stamps perf. 14 x 13¼ (K9a), thus | |

proving the block to be from a pre-two-perf. printing. Unhinged mint and superfine	£115.00
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SECOND PICTORIALS

The first part of an extended listing of this popular and philatelically absorbing series. We commence with the single (or 'registered') watermark issues.

430(a) ½d Fantail (L1a). Marginal block of four mint unhinged	£1.75
(b) As above. Set of two corner pairs, showing plate nos. 1A and 1B respectively. Finest mint	£3.50
(c) As above. Finest mint block of four with variety Watermark Inverted (L1aZ) ..	£3.25
(d) As above. Unhinged mint marginal block of 6 (2 x 3), three stamps normal, two with Letter Wmk. (L1aX) and one with No Wmk. (L1aY)	£17.50
(e) As above. Vertical block of 20 comprising the right hand two columns from a sheet, with full selvages. The left hand column of stamps is normal, while nine of the right hand column have Letter Wmk., and one No Wmk. Nice piece! ..	£67.50
(f) As above. Used copy with the Pl. 1A R8/1 'Clematis' flaw (LV1b). Very scarce, as the flaw developed late in the currency of the single wmk. paper ..	£45.00
431(a) 1d Kiwi, Die 1, Perf. 14 x 13½ (L2a). Two magnificent shades in finest mint blocks of 4	£5.75
(b) As above. Set of four plate blocks of 4 (A1, A2, B1, B2), complete as listed ..	£22.50
(c) As above. The scarcer plate no. B2 in corner block of 4. Shallow selvedge thin, clear of stamps, otherwise very fine	£6.50
(d) As above. Finest mint block of 4 with variety Wmk. Inverted (L2aZ) ...	£4.75
(e) As above. Marginal strip of 4, three stamps with Wmk. Letter (L2aX), one No Wmk. (L2aY). Mint unhinged	£12.50
(f) As above. Block of 20 (2 x 10), matching lot 430(e) above, and of similar content. Superfine mint	£45.00
(g) As above. Plate block of 10 (2 x 5) from pl. A1 showing the R7/2 'Halo' flaw, and an advanced state of the long vertical plate crack which developed between the first and second stamps in rows 6 and 7 (LV2c). Couple of minor gum tones do not intrude on superb appearance	£35.00
(h) As above. Corner block of 10 (2 x 5), overprinted Official (LO2a), five stamps normal, four with Letter Wmk. one No Wmk. Mint unhinged	£27.50
432(a) 1d Kiwi, Die 1, Perf. 13½ x 14 (L2b). The scarce one — superfine mint copy, very lightly hinged, centred a little high, but better than average for this issue	£35.00
(b) As above. Marginal block of 4, similar centring. Tiny gum thin on one stamp, otherwise finest mint	£135.00

(c)	As above. Superb plate block of 4 (with plate no. B2 of course), and showing the normal left-to-right perforating	£250.00
433(a)	1d Kiwi, Die 2 (L2c). Set of two marginal copies (with 'Parisian' adverts in selvages), in the listed shades of red and deep red. Excellent contrasts. Unhinged mint	£11.50
(b)	As above. Similar set of two unhinged mint, but with wmk. upright and inverted respectively	£15.00
(c)	As above. Booklet pane of six (all selvages complete), with wmk. upright (W5aZ). Superfine mint	£37.50
(d)	As above. Similar booklet pane, but with wmk. inverted (W5aY)	£40.00
434(a)	2d Whare (L4a). Set of two plate blocks (nos. 1A and 1B) complete ...	£12.50
(b)	As above. Plate block of 4 (pl. 1B) with variety Watermark Inverted (L4aZ) . Minor perf. tone, but of extreme rarity — this is the only plate block of the 'invert' variety known to us	£230.00
(c)	As above. Single copy with inverted watermark, superfine used — and we really do mean superfine	£57.50
435(a)	2½d Mt. Cook/Lilies, Perf. 14—13 x 13½ (L5a). Mint unhinged copy, marginal	£6.50
(b)	As above. Plate block of four (pl. no. 1). Cat. \$75, but no side selvedge, hence	£20.00
(c)	As above. Another plate block, this one with full corner selvedge, and with variety Watermark Inverted (L5aY) . Superb mint unhinged	£95.00
(d)	As above. Marginal single copy with the inverted watermark variety, mint unhinged	£20.00
(e)	As above. Lightly hinged mint example with inverted watermark	£11.50
436(a)	2½d Experimental Wet Printing, Perf. 13½ x 14 (L5b). Fine mint copy, with the distinctive thick cracked brownish gum peculiar to the wet printings ...	£3.00
(b)	As above. Superfine mint plate block of four (pl. no. 1), showing the same characteristics	£27.50

N.Z. COMMEMORATIVES (Continued)

All offers are mint unless otherwise stated.

437(a)	1966 Scout Jamboree (S103). Plate block and sheet value block of four ...	£3.50
(b)	As above. Bottom marginal horizontal pair, one stamp showing a green flaw horizontally through 4d, the other stamp without the flaw!	£4.00

(c) As above. Two different illustrated F.D.C.'s	£3.50
438(a) 1967 P.O.S.B. (S104/5). A superb set of marginal markings, including five 4d blocks (all three plates, imprint, and sheet value) and three 9d blocks (plate, imprint, sheet value). All blocks of six stamps except one 4d block of four (46 stamps)	£15.00
(b) As above. Two 4d sheet value blocks of six — clear differences in the colour boxes indicate they are from different plates	£5.00
(c) As above. 4d corner block of four with R1/1 flaw	£2.00
(d) As above. Two matching 4d corner blocks, one with the R1/1 flaw, the other without	£5.00
(e) As above. 4d marginal block of four including R4/20 and 5/19 catalogued varieties	£3.00
(f) As above. Two 4d strips of three, one normal, the other with badly printed Gold (lettering and figures are affected)	£10.00
(g) As above. 9d marginal block of six with R3/7 retouch (S105aZ)	£2.00
(h) As above. Three 9d stamps, one with gold shifted down (black "halo" at top), another with gold shifted to right (black "halo" to left), the other normal	£6.00
(i) As above. Three different illustrated F.D.C.'s	£10.00
439(a) 1967 Royal Society (S106/7). Eleven corner blocks (60 stamps), including 4c all four "basic" plates, two imprints, two different sheet value blocks; 8c plate, imprint and sheet value blocks — all blocks of 6 except the sheet values, which are 4 stamps per block. Unmounted mint throughout	£20.00
(b) As above. Lower half of a 4c sheet (50 stamps) with the rare five-numbered plate markings 1A1A1A1A2A . We doubt if any other such multiples with this plate number exist	£100.00
(c) As above. The Catalogued 4c R1/10 and 2/8 varieties are multipositive flaws (S106aY) — i.e. they are found on all sheets. These two different sheet value blocks of the 4c show both of these varieties	£7.25
(d) As above. Three 4c blocks including R1/2, 1/3, 2/4 and 9/7 varieties — all listed in Volume 6 of the N.Z. Handbook	£12.50
(e) As above. Two 4c blocks of 4, most attractive shades	£3.00
(f) As above. 4c Inverted Watermark variety (S106aZ), unmounted	£6.00
(g) As above. The same inverted wmk. variety, but marginal block of 4, also unhinged mint	£25.00