

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN

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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

\$ 1 Circular Kiwi (Red) — More Intriguing Observations. It is understood that the printing plate for this stamp was of 96 impressions, each printed sheet being divided prior to issue into four sheets of 24.

I have had the opportunity to examine a number of the issued sheets. These all contained a number of identical but very minor constant flaws and other imperfections, in the form of tiny dots and scratches, none of which are of themselves either significant or worthy of description. Viewed as a whole, however, they become very much more interesting.

These constant characteristics fall clearly into two classes. The first group are conventional plate flaws, occurring once only in the sheet, and repeating in that same position from sheet to sheet. All the sheets I examined had the same set of flaws in this category, strongly suggesting that all were printed from the same quarter of the plate. Sheets from other quarters of the plate should either have their own, different, set of this class of flaw, or none at all.

The second class of characteristics is an entirely different matter. Again all of my sheets showed exactly the same set, but in this case each appeared **not once but twice within each sheet**. Those found in horizontal row 1 were precisely replicated in row 3, while those in row 2 appeared again in row 4. In other words, the bottom half of a given sheet was, in respect of this group of characteristics, **an exact duplicate of the top half**.

It is therefore quite obvious that (1) these cannot be plate flaws in the usual sense — they must have occurred at some stage prior to the making of the plate; and (2) the printing plate was not laid down by the conventional method for recess plates, with each individual impression rolled in from an impression on a transfer die, which was in turn taken up from a flat single die.

The evidence of this second group of characteristics indicates that the basic unit for laying down this \$ 1 Kiwi plate was of **twelve** impressions, arranged in two horizontal rows of six. The only possible comparable precedent for this to my knowledge was the 1d Universal Waterlow Trial Plates, which were laid down five impressions at a time from a transfer roller containing that number of impressions in a continuous strip, but anyone familiar

with the 'Waterlows' will know what an unsatisfactory job that turned out to be, and the experiment was never repeated.

It is, of course, possible that nowadays there are methods available for making recess-printing plates which involve the use of some form of multipositive in a photographic step-and-repeat process, as in other more modern plate-making techniques. That seems to be the only logical explanation for the second class of repetitive characteristics described above — and in that case the same set of characteristics should occur in all issued sheets, no matter which quarter of the printing plate they came from.

NEW ISSUES AND VARIETIES (from C.P. Newsletter Monthly, July 1991)

1991 "Happy Birthday" and "Thinking of You". Both of these issues appeared in booklet form on the 15th May and followed the format of the Personal Message stamps which were issued in May 1988. New Zealand Post yet again shows itself able to extend the art of stamp issuing and the purpose of stamps beyond that of the "labels for the pre-payment of postage". These types of issues could almost be said to fill a social role on the one hand and deal the greetings card manufacturers a blow on the other. The "Happy Birthday" stamps were designed by Helen Crawford of Auckland, and the "Thinking of You" stamps by Jennifer Lautusi of Christchurch. Both issues were printed by Leigh-Mardon Pty. Ltd. of Australia by lithography. There are five 40c stamps per booklet. The perforation gauge is 13½ x 13¼ and the printers have used CPL red phosphor paper. The designs are interesting in that the "Happy Birthday" stamps feature a number of stylized birthday themes and artefacts and the "Thinking of You" series focuses on a whimsical cat in a number of thoughtful poses. The series has a cat looking out of the window, musing over a pair of slippers, eyeing a clock, looking out the window again, and waiting by the door. CPNLM cynically suggests that the cat is not 'thinking of you' at all — a well filled bowl maybe. Variety: We have noted in some "Thinking of You" stamp booklets (Row 1/1), a "full stop" in Black between "of You".

1991 "Scenic Wonders" issue: New Zealand Post has produced a spectacular scenic set this year, which it describes as "spectacular monuments to the dramatic geographical events which shape New Zealand". The values are 40c Punakaiki Rocks, 50c Moeraki Boulders, 80c Organ Pipes, \$ 1 Castle Hill, \$ 1.50 Te Kaukau Point, \$ 1.80 Ahuriri River Clay Cliffs. While applauding the dramatic and arresting nature of the designs, it seems that New Zealand Post has extended the annual scenic series equally spectacularly, taking the face value to \$ 6 (last year face value \$ 5.10 and 1989 \$ 3.95). The date of issue was 12th June and the stamps were printed by Leigh-Mardon, again by lithography. Perforation gauge is 14¼ and again the paper is CPL red phosphor.

Reprints Reported: Malcolm J. Francis draws our attention to two new reprints. The \$ 4 Saddleback has appeared in reprint form, again with one Kiwi in the bottom selvedge below R10/2. The difference in this reprint is that the Kiwi has moved to the right. The two "one Kiwi reprints" are distinguished as follows:

The first one Kiwi reprint (with Kiwi immediately near to the perforations on the left): Cream paper, clear gum and darker shading throughout.

The second one Kiwi reprint: Kiwi further to the right, white paper, blue gum and paler shading throughout.

Perforations and mesh remain unchanged.

Seen from the back, the difference in these two reprints is quite dramatic and they are particularly collectable.

(All the evidence suggests that the more recent issue is actually a **two-kiwi reprint with the first kiwi omitted** — Ed.)

5c Mineral: *Malcolm also reports an 8 Kiwi reprint in this now hardy annual. The paper is now white and the gum blue. (In the 7 Kiwi reprint, the gum was colourless and the paper cream).*

Recent Issues — Sheet Format: *Colin Capill, writing in the "New Zealand Stamp Collector" for June 1991, notes the following plate formats used in the printing of several recent issues:*

\$ 1 Round Kiwi, he notes that the printing plate comprises four panes (2 x 2) each of 24 stamps. Each pane consists of four rows each of six stamps. The same plates were used by Leigh-Mardon, the printers, for the original \$ 1 Green Kiwi issue.

40c Self-adhesive Stamp: The printing plates consisted of 16 vertical rows of stamps with 25 stamps plus one label in each vertical row. The stamps were printed on self-adhesive paper, which has a backing attached to it and when printing is complete, the sheets are die-cut to separate each stamp with a simulated perforation. The die-cutting does not carry into the backing fully. The waste paper is then peeled off and the stamps remain attached to the backing. Four large sheets are joined end to end and are then guillotined into strips, thus making rolls of 100, as issued.

The "Thinking of You" and "Happy Birthday" stamps were printed from a plate comprised of fifty panes each of five stamps laid out in ten units each of five panes, these being arranged in two vertical rows. The booklets, which can be purchased in these vertical units of five panes, can be separated into single booklets by tearing along a row of roulettes.

Increase in Postal Rates Announced: *It was announced early in June that New Zealand Post will increase its postal rate on 1st July 1991. The basic cost of postage will go from 40c to 45c and represents the first increase for inland surface letters for more than four years. There is to be a 45c stamp issued for the new Inland Surface rate. The stamp will depict the Rock Wren and replaces the 40c Brown Kiwi. A new 5c stamp, featuring the Spotless Crake is also to be issued.*

New Varieties Reported: 40c Antarctic Petrel: *Mr. A.J. Shirley of Greymouth found examples at the Christchurch Philatelic Counter of New Zealand Post with the bird in a very reddish or rusty shade. In the 50c value a similar variety was reported in the Newsletter some months ago.*

40c Electricity (1988): *In a plate block which we purchased recently a section of horizontal Row 9 had torn in from the selvedge at left and most of Row 9/1 had folded down over Row 10/1 prior to guillotining of the sheet. After guillotining the flap of paper now shows extra selvedge to the left of the Traffic Lights selvedge and a number 2 appears in an area which would normally be removed by guillotining. Is this then a unique example of a plate block in this Electricity issue?*

40c Orchid Miniature Sheet (1990): *We have seen shade extremes in this miniature sheet varying from a Deep Bright Purple in the Sun Orchid and a Deep Green in the other designs through to a paler Violet shade in the Sun Orchid and paler Green in the other designs.*

\$ 1 Round Red Kiwi: We have noted that Row 3/1 in one of the four panes has a small red flaw in the base of the '1'. The flaw is probably constant and other observations would be appreciated to corroborate this. The \$ 1 Red Kiwi, in common with its \$ 1 Green predecessor suffers from 'flaking' of the ink in various of the designs where ink accumulates more thickly.

SECOND PICTORIALS – THE MULTIPLE WMK ISSUES (Contd.)

801(a)	4d mitre Peak, Perf. 14 x 13½ (L7b). Unhinged mint block of four	£3.25
(b)	As above. Set of three in the listed frame shades of sepia, deep sepia and black-brown, unhinged mint. One set only (the black-brown is scarce)	£12.50
(c)	As above. Set of two copies, one mint and one used, both showing the major and unique double re-entry , which occurred on R3/8 of one of the centre plates), and resulted in a clear trebling of the right hand side of the mountain. A most unusual matched pair	£11.75
802(a)	4d Perf. 14 line (L7c). Unhinged mint, and guaranteed, example of the key 4d issue. We have seen many copies of L7a, and occasionally even L7b, optimistically identified as the good one. We repeat, this one carries our unconditional warranty	£60.00
(b)	As above. Similarly guaranteed copy, but fine lightly hinged mint	£35.00
803	4d Perf. 12½ (L7d). Not particularly highly catalogued, but a strangely and consistently elusive stamp, both mint and, particularly, used. We can offer only a fine lightly hinged mint copy	£6.00
804(a)	4d Perf. 14 x 14½, Coarse Paper (L7e). Unhinged mint block of four	£2.00
(b)	As above. Finest used copy with variety Watermark Inverted (L7eY). Unpriced thus, but Cat. \$ 100 mint. Scarce!	£30.00
805(a)	5d Swordfish, Perf. 13–14 x 13½ or 14–13 x 13½ (L8c). The only issue of any value where this peculiar 'duplex' gauge occurs reasonably commonly either way round. To demonstrate the point, we offer a mint copy with the horizontal perfs gauging 13–14, and a used copy 14–13. An interesting pair! .	£8.00
(b)	As above. Plate block of four (pl. no. 1). Cat. \$ 115, but a light crease (invisible on face) allows	£27.50
(c)	As above. Another plate block, this one with variety Watermark Inverted	£75.00
(d)	As above. Single copies with inverted watermark are available in two very distinctive shades of deep ultramarine and notably pale ultramarine, unhinged mint, each	£16.50
(e)	As above. The same variety, in a choice of the same two shades, but lightly hinged mint, each	£10.00

806(a)	5d Perf. 12½. Fine Paper (L8d). Marginal copy, unhinged mint	£25.00
(b)	As above. Plate block of four (pl. no. 1), finest mint	£110.00
807	5d Perf. 12½, Coarse Paper (L8e). Plate block of four (pl. no. 2), superfine mint	£75.00
808(a)	5d Perf. 13¼ x 13½, Coarse Paper (L8f). Set of two blocks of four, finest mint, in lovely contrasting shades of deep dull grey-blue and deep ultramarine	£18.50
(b)	As above. Set of three plate blocks, numbered 1, 2 and 3 respectively (pl. 1 is scarce in this final issue)	£55.00
(c)	As above. A magnificent set of three plate blocks from plate 2 in three states: (i) pre-pitted; (ii) extensively pitted; (iii) post-pitted, with R10/1 clearly re-entered. It is curious that, although steps were taken to remove the extensive pitting which affected this plate, certain prominent flaws which were present prior to the pitting were overlooked, and remained evident throughout the life of the plate. Two of these flaws (on T of POSTAGE on R9/1, and on A of POSTAGE on R10/2) are present on all three blocks	£60.00
(d)	As above. Marginal copy showing the mystery letter 'B' which was evidently scratched on to the plate by hand, below the perforation guide mark. This unexplained marking is found only on some sheets from plate 2. Scarce and unusual! Unhinged mint	£30.00
809(a)	6d Harvesting, Perf. 13½ x 14 (L9b). Spectacular set of three plate blocks showing progressive states of the cracking which occurred around the plate number 1. This cracking began to be evident during printings of the single wmk. issue (L9a), but the really extensive development was in the L9b printings (seen here in early through intermediate to advanced forms), and almost certainly led to the scrapping of the plate. The three plate blocks, finest mint, although the 'advanced' block has no side selvage. Cat. \$ 375 ++	£115.00
(b)	As above. Unhinged mint copy with variety Watermark Inverted (L9bZ) ...	£20.00
(c)	As above. Another plate block (intermediate state of crack), with inverted watermark. Mint unhinged	£125.00
(d)	As above. Plate block of four, overprinted Official (LO9b), again with intermediate cracking. No side selvage	£22.50
810(a)	6d Perf. 12½ (L9c). Brilliant unhinged mint block of four in the pale scarlet shade that was peculiar to this 'Blitz' issue — paler than any other 6d	£7.50
(b)	As above. Finest mint plate block of four (pl. no. 2) — includes the R10/1 re-entry	£10.75
(c)	As above. Uniquely, the 'OFFICIAL' issue of this stamp (LO9c) comes with the overprint in two different and well-defined positions — at top (just below	

the 'NEW ZEALAND' panel), and at bottom (just above the 'POSTAGE AND REVENUE' panel. Our set of two mint copies demonstrates this odd fact to perfection £6.75

811(a) 6d Perf. 14½ x 14, Fine Paper (L9d). The scarcest of the 6ds in mint condition — here offered superb unhinged £16.50

(b) As above. Plate block of four. Unhinged mint but alas, no side selvage £67.50

812(a) 6d Perf. 14½ x 14, Coarse Paper (L9e). Although only one shade is listed for this last issue, here is a set of two mint, in lovely contrasts £2.50

(b) As above. Better still, plate blocks of four (pl. nos. 2 and 3), again in superbly contrasting shades £13.50

(c) As above. Top left corner block of four, overprinted Official (LO9e), with burele band (in the colour of the stamp) at left. Rarely seen in the 6d — and even more so in the 6d Official — as there was a full 20 mm gap between stamps and band, and only when the selvage is abnormally wide, due to mis-gillotining, are we allowed a glimpse of the band £37.50

KING GEORGE VI PROVISIONALS

A rare listing of single-value collections of these interesting issues, almost impossible to assemble from scratch nowadays.

813 1d on ½d Green (M3a). Superb study on 15 album leaves, including plate/overprint varieties from the various formes employed, and a specially nice lot of pieces showing the strange lengths gone to in order to conceal the plate numbers of the basic ½d stamps. 244 mint, 35 used £250.00

814 2d on 1½d Chocolate (M5a). A very similar lot of 221 mint, 5 used (on 9 leaves). No 'Re-inserted 2' (thus keeping the price within bounds!), but otherwise comprehensive, and well annotated, with again good representation of 'obliterated plate number' blocks £225.00

815 1½d on 'Blank' Arms Type (M17a). An all mint collection on 5 leaves, with an interesting range of corner blocks from different printings, showing sheet serial numbers in black and red (includes 000002 in red, with manuscript annotation by the late Campbell Watts that 000001 was a damaged sheet!). In all, ten blocks (74 stamps) with inverted watermark, and two blocks (20 stamps) with upright watermark (the latter are much scarcer than is generally realised) £52.50

816 3d on 1d Green (M18a). Another all-mint lot (6 leaves, 156 stamps) with plate blocks complete — several duplicated in shades plate and overprint varieties, and the highlight of the collection, a plate block from plate 117 with an offset on the back from plate 118 — unlisted and unrecorded £110.00

817 1d on ½d Chestnut. Plate blocks complete in shades, two states of an astounding overprint variety which needs to be seen to be appreciated, several other blocks showing development of a lesser overprint variety, and several plate varieties in blocks. 12 blocks (104 stamps) on 4 leaves £45.00

K.G.V PLATE SINGLES

While current these plate markings were apparently collected extensively as single stamps (which no doubt explains the relative scarcity, and price, of plate blocks!). We anticipate that plate singles will be added to the present C.P. Catalogue listings in the 1991 Revision.

818	2d Violet (K2a). Plate no. 16, full corner selvage, unhinged mint	£30.00
819	2½d Slate-Blue (K3a). Plate no. 17, top selvage only, hinged once	£20.00
820	3d Chocolate, Official (K04a). Plate no. 18, full corner selvage, unmounted . mint	£35.00
821	4½d Deep Green (K6a). Plate no. 21, full corner selvage, unhinged mint	£35.00
822	5d Blue (K7a). Plate no. 43, full corner selvage, hinged once (stamp unmounted)	£30.00
823	6d Carmine (K8a). Plate no. 22, full corner selvage, unmounted mint	£40.00
824	7½d Red-Brown (K9a). Plate no. 24, full corner selvage, unhinged mint	£35.00
825	8d Indigo-Blue (K10a). Plate no. 39, full corner selvage, stamp unmounted ..	£35.00
826	8d Red-Brown (K10d). Plate no. 39, top selvage only, hinged in selvage	£25.00
827(a)	9d Sage-Green (K11a). Plate no. 25, full corner selvage, unmounted mint	£40.00
	(b) As above. Another example, but in yellow-olive. Top selvage only ..	£40.00
828(a)	1/- Perf. 14 x 13¼ (K12a). Plate no. 27, full corner selvage. The stamp is unhinged mint, and in a vibrant vermilion shade	£50.00
	(b) As above. Perf. 14 x 14¼ (K12b). Plate no. 42, full corner selvage — also a vermilion. Stamp unhinged	£60.00
	(c) As above. Last but not least, plate no. 42, top selvage only, the stamp is an extremely pale Salmon shade (K12b3)	£50.00

OFFER OF THE MONTH

829(a)	1935 Silver Jubilee. The set of three, perfect mint unhinged. Cat. \$47	£11.75
	(b) As above, but finest used, and scarce thus. Cat. \$77	£19.50

830

HEALTH MINIATURE SHEETS

A complete run from 1957 (both sideways and upright wmk.) to 1985 inclusive.
All finest mint, lightly hinged in selvage only. Cat. \$840 as unhinged (S.G.
£398+) a superb opportunity for someone at just

£125.00

Imprint and plate blocks complete as listed in the C.P. Catalogue (the 1/2d imprint block is on fine paper, the 1 1/2d plate blocks have wmk. W8b, and **all three listed variations of the 8d imprint are included**). A total of 31 blocks (138 stamps), Cat. \$ 202. Condition generally very fine mint, but two blocks (one 1d and one 8d) are totally discounted in the price of £70.00

1960 PICTORIALS

- 832(a) Chambon Perforations.** A complete set of ten mint blocks of six (each 2 x 3, the perfect format to show the peculiarities of this experimental perforation), comprised of 1/2d, 1d original paper, 1d chalky, 2d, 3d original paper, 3d chalky, 4d, 6d original paper, 6d chalky, 8d. All blocks selected for good examples of the wide and/or narrow 'teeth'. Cat. \$ 114 £45.00
- (b) As above.** A quite exceptional Chambon block of 14 (2 x 7) of the chalky paper 3d, with the combination (from the top) wide/wide/narrow/narrow. Two consecutive examples of wide 'teeth' are seldom encountered, and on chalky paper must be rare £37.50
- 833(a) Booklet Panes.** Set of three panes of 6 (1/2d, 1d, 3d) from the earlier **stapled** booklet issues £8.00
- (b) As above.** Panes from the later **stitched** booklets may be found either with plain binding selvedge (the commonest) or with a printed number — running from 1 to 6 — at upper left. This set of 18 panes (six each of the 1/2d, 1d and 3d) has the complete range of these numbers. Cat. \$ 195 £60.00

RECENT ISSUES

- 1991 'Happy Birthday' and 'Thinking of You' issues (15/5/91 issue date).** Each of these two sets consists of 5 x 40c stamps se-tenant, obtainable only from \$2 booklets.
- Two Mint Sets, each of 5 stamps se-tenant £2.66
- Two \$2 Booklets, one each set £2.66
- Two Official illustrated F.D.C's (Wanganui pmk.) £3.20

40c BROWN KIWI SELF-ADHESIVE

Since our July Bulletin was prepared, we have learned that the above stamp has already been withdrawn due to a change in postage rates — **result, a currency of only 10 weeks**, surely the shortest 'definitive' life on record. For those who missed our unusual offer last month, therefore, we repeat it now.

A set of four strips — plain strip of 4 stamps, three strips of 4 stamps with the mid-roll stickers "N.Z. POST GOOD VALUE"; "ONLY 25 STAMPS LEFT", and "ONLY 5 STAMPS LEFT". Available only while existing stocks last £8.50

Additionally available, genuinely **used** single stamps (used multiples cannot, of course, exist) £1.25