

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

All is Not Always What It Seems. Offered in a recent U.K. auction was a used copy of a plate 2 2d Full-Face Queen (blue), described as "perf. 12½ x 10, unrecorded". As suggested by the description, no genuine copy of such a stamp has ever been found, to our knowledge, although the 2d in this compound perf. **does** exist 'the other way round', i.e. 10 x 12½ — itself a great rarity, incidentally, and a stamp which forgers have attempted to simulate.

Even in not-very-clear illustration, the recent item had a 'peculiar' appearance, and close examination of the stamp in the flesh revealed scattered but unmistakable traces of additional perforation holes on the outer edges of the 'teeth' on the vertical sides. Although their intermittent nature made measurement difficult, we were in little doubt that they were 12½s.

Our conclusion was that the stamp was originally perf. 12½ all round — actually one of the commonest of all Full-Face Queens — but with the vertical perforations misplaced outwards on both sides, producing an abnormally 'wide' example (such misplacements could and did occur whenever line heads were used for perforating, and the only comb perf. 12½ machine had been converted to line quite early in its life). Someone, no doubt, had cottoned on to the possibility of "converting" this wide stamp into a normal-width companion for the 10 x 12½ rarity, by forging perfs. gauging 10 inside the misplaced genuine perfs.

Perhaps the auctioneers were themselves not altogether convinced by the stamp they were offering, either, for the estimated price was quite a modest one!

10c Queen Elizabeth (Type PA10). Auckland colleague Andrew Dolphin reports the existence of an imperforate piece with selvedge markings proving it to be from plate 3B2B2B2B2B, and therefore a variety of PA10b. This is the first and only example recorded, as far as I'm aware, of such an error on the second issue of this stamp. Imperforates of the same design have been known (and listed in our Catalogue) for a long time now, but these were unquestionably varieties of the original issue, perf. 14¼ x 13¾, and they are therefore correctly listed in C.P. as PA10a (Z). A sheet was reported as having been discovered in the C.P. Newsletter of July 1978. That sheet was from plate 2B1B1B1B, a fact which of itself is conclusive, but in addition the original find was made many months before PA10b stamps were issued.

The new discovery will now necessitate another listing of the same variety under PA10b, but the only satisfactory means of differentiating which is which will be by selvage markings which are peculiar to one issue or the other.

'Leigh Mardon' 45c Self-Adhesive Rolls. We published quite extensive details of this recent surprise issue in our April 1992 Bulletin Notes (q.v.). These notes were based on the initial supply of rolls we received.

Another batch has now arrived. Composition, labels and stamp content are exactly as before, but there is one major difference in the new supply. The surplus paper surrounding the stamps — one of the features of the first rolls seen — has now been completely removed. Thus the serial letter markings (H to A), which appeared on the marginal paper, adjacent to each join in the roll, are no longer present, and the repeated 'Official Olympic Sponsor' logo printed on the backing paper is now exposed between the stamps.

From C.P. Newsletter Monthly, May 1992

NO MORE STAMPS ON REGISTERED MAIL? At time of going to press, Auckland is alive with rumours that New Zealand Post intends to abolish the use of stamps on registered mail. According to the rumour, all registered mail will have to be taken to Post Shops and placed in suitable courier envelopes and sent under New Zealand Post's courier system. It's well-known that New Zealand Post is attempting to take every opportunity to develop its courier service and doubtless sees this as a way of forestalling and competing with the other courier services that have proliferated in the last few years. Doubtless this in turn is preparatory to the dropping of any monopoly which may remain in New Zealand Post's favour (at present items under 80c postage). I can only say at this stage — and by the time we reach the press this may be a fait accompli — that New Zealand Post is quite unnecessarily restricting the use of its own stamps by taking this move.

Already we hear there is considerable resistance to what may be a badly thought out idea. The established right of the public to use postage stamps to pre-pay postage seems to be under threat and quite unnecessarily so. Why not simply accept registered mail into its courier service for that matter — but still apply stamps to the envelopes? I hope that one source of fine used New Zealand stamps is not removed by what is apparently a short-sighted marketing policy.

The development of New Zealand Post's courier services mentioned above, and current moves taken to strengthen them, are all in response to the threat of competition from highly commercialized and aggressive couriers with world-wide networks and connections. I wonder whether plucking a service or two from New Zealand Post's normal offerings and handing them lock, stock and barrel to the courier service may be a way of giving them something to do (the cynical view).

STOP PRESS. On 13th April 1992, New Zealand Post's new rules for registered mail came into force and it was obvious on the day that the Philatelic Bureau and Post Shop staff were in the dark. Full details next month, but initial impressions are that this new change has been in preparation for a long time and yet has been a very well kept secret — overtones of preparing New Zealand Post for sale by elimination of unprofitable areas? — and undertones of a very real attempt to avoid public backlash against what may be seen as a deterioration in service and the substitution of a more expensive service (particularly overseas — \$7.50 now — formerly \$4).

TO PRIVATISE OR NOT TO PRIVATISE? Of wider interest are current discussions in the press and elsewhere which seem to point to an eventual privatisation of New Zealand Post. This can be seen in the light of a world-wide trend to privatise public utilities and make them more profit orientated and efficient. New Zealand has not been slow in following this course. Against that

has to be put the quite natural public resistance to seeing the "family silver" sold off, often to foreign interests or at least foreign control, as has been the case with Telecom and its sale to Ameritex and Bell Atlantic — both huge United States operators of telecommunication systems — and the public. The sale of New Zealand Post would be the second major communications medium to be sold off, leaving the ailing radio network and two TV channels under public control. Deregulation is already underway as mentioned above and already farmers and their Federation are feeling the threat of a proposed doubling of the rural delivery charges. As I write this, a stay of execution has been gained to give time for another "independent report" on the latter situation.

Other major questions raised by privatisation are the future of the stamp archives and the whole question of the issuing of New Zealand stamps. There will be UPU requirements to conform with in the latter case, and collectors and dealers organisations will want to know the answers regarding the former case. As I write, the Government appears to have softened its stance on privatisation for the time being at least, and it has been suggested that this may be something to do with the General Election next year. At least one major publicly owned corporation which was to be privatised has now been instructed to bring more "social conscience" into its activities (the Housing Corporation). New Zealand Post of all publicly owned corporations has a social service to perform — remember the outcry when it closed hundreds of Post Offices some years ago? There were stories of pensioners having to trudge or bus for hours to transact their business and no doubt the social cost continues unheard.

Perhaps the privatisation of New Zealand Post is a little further away than we thought.

Regarding the issuing of New Zealand stamps, by the way, it is my understanding that a State Owned Enterprise (SOE) would be formed with the power to licence a privatised New Zealand Post to issue stamps with "New Zealand" on them and collect the revenue to run the postal service. Presumably it would be this SOE which negotiated with the UPU on all matters of international reciprocity.

So far the privatisation of New Zealand Post has been a matter of leaked reports and unsubstantiated rumours. CP Newsletter will keep readers informed in this column of information coming to hand.

KING GEORGE V RECESS

A continuation of last month's listing.

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|---|--------|
| 601(a) 4d Yellow (K5a—c). Set of four mint stamps, comprising perf, 14 x 13½ and 14 x 14½ singles, plus a se-tenant two-perf. pair — each item in a different yellow shade | £15.00 |
| (b) As above. Two blocks of four (K5a) in the Catalogues shades of yellow and orange-yellow (six stamps unhinged). Striking contrasts! | £45.00 |
| (c) As above. The same two shades, but in mint singles | £7.00 |
| (d) As above. Unmounted mint block of four, one stamp with the R1/6 re-entry, KV5a(a) | £40.00 |
| 602(a) 4d Violet (K5d—f). Another set of four mint stamps matching lot 601(a) above, all items in differing violet shades | £25.00 |

- (b) **As above.** Two blocks of four (K5d), in just about the most extreme contrasts imaginable — one bright violet, the other the duldest of dull violets. Brilliant! .. £50.00
- (c) **As above.** What is violet? This mint set of **seven stamps** (all perf. 14 x 13¼), is one kind of answer — all different contrasts from deep bright through to pale dull! A feast of colour £30.00
- (d) **As above.** Two mint singles, showing the R1/6 and R4/10 re-entries respectively, KV5d (a and b). Catalogued \$ 185, on offer at £40.00
- (e) **As above.** Marginal mint block of four, perf. 14 x 14¼ (K5e), with the perforation guide mark in the selvedge and letters wmk PO. One stamp only hinged £37.50
- (f) **As above.** Three mint stamps, all perf. 14 x 14¼, differing violet shades £14.00
- (g) **As above.** Mint two-perf. block of four (K5f) £37.50
- 603(a) 4d Deep Purple (K5g/h).** Two blocks of four, both perf. 14 x 14¼, together reconstructing the bottom left corner of a sheet (rows 7, 8, 9, 10 nos. 1 and 2) with perforation guide mark in selvedge. One stamp in each block hinged ... £90.00
- (b) **As above.** Perf. 14 x 14¼ (K5g) block of four, two stamps unmounted £40.00
- (c) **As above.** Top right corner single (K5g), with sheet serial number (1700741), mint £10.00
- (d) **As above.** Six mint stamps in a quite superb range of shades £40.00
- (e) **As above.** Perf. 14 x 13¼ (K5h) superb mint block of four, lightly hinged on two. Scarce! £85.00
- (f) **As above.** Two perf. 14 x 13¼ mint stamps, in blackish purple and blackish violet respectively £37.50
- (g) **As above.** Block of six stamps (14 x 14¼, K5g) including R10/8 and 10/9 re-entries, in a magnificent **violet** shade. Five stamps are unhinged mint £115.00
- (h) **As above.** Five different mint re-entries, R3/8 in pair; R10/8 and 10/9 in pair; R10/12 single (all illustrated in the C.P. Catalogue, and all perf. 14 x 14¼), plus an unplated moustache re-entry, perf. 14 x 13¼ £85.00
- (i) **As above.** Four different plate 44 re-touches (one in pair), two not plated, all perf. 14 x 14¼. Mint £45.00
- 604(a) 4½d Deep Green (K6a—c).** Set of four mint stamps matching lot 601(a) above . £37.50
- (b) **As above.** Two perf. 14 x 13¼ stamps, green shades £15.00
- (c) **As above.** Similar green shades, but perf. 14 x 14¼ £15.00
- (d) **As above.** Mint block of four, perf. 14 x 14¼, superb condition £45.00

605(a)	5d Blue (K7a-c). Set of four mint stamps, matching lot 601(a) above, each item in a different shade	£32.50
(b)	As above. Unmounted mint block of four, perf. 14 x 13½, blue shade	£30.00
(c)	As above. Mint horizontal strip of three (K7a), steel-blue shade	£17.50
(d)	As above. A kaleidoscope of mint shades (all perf. 14 x 13½) — three different blues, an ultramarine, and two steels. Lovely!	£25.00
(e)	As above. Corner single, stamp unhinged, plate number 43 in selvedge, blue shade (K7a)	£22.50
(f)	As above. Corner plate block of four (K7a), stamps unmounted mint, in steel-blue	£125.00
(g)	As above. K7b, perf. 14 x 14½, the three Catalogued shades, mint single copies	£22.50

“THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF NEW ZEALAND”

Some further offers of the scarce, limited-edition Handbooks, published at intervals since 1938 by the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand, and containing the distilled knowledge of N.Z.'s leading philatelic students. All prices are post paid.

606	Complete Set. Volumes 1 to 7 inclusive, all still in their original dust jackets, and immaculate. A magnificent set	£1,175.00
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607	Volume 1. The key volume of the series — only 1000 copies were printed in 1938, and how many of these have survived is anyone's guess. This copy is complete, in well above average condition, and appears to have been little used	£325.00
608	Volume 2. Published 1950 (2000 copies). Complete with the six die prints in colour of the Chalon Head 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d and 1/-. Very good condition ..	£90.00
609	Volume 3. Published 1955 (1,150 copies). Perhaps the most sought-after individual volume of all, being devoted exclusively to N.Z. postal history in all its aspects. An exceptionally fine copy	£275.00
610	Volume 7. The most recent of the series, covering postal history of the period 1820–1874, with a profusion of new information. Published 1988 (1000 copies). As new condition	£42.50

1898–1908 PICTORIAL VARIETIES, MINT AND USED

611	1d Lake Taupo (E2a). Set of three used copies all with plated re-entries including Pl. 2 R1/1, the best of all in this value	£10.00
612(a)	1d Terraces (E3a). Mint pair (crimson shade), left stamp showing the good pl. 1 R8/23 re-entry. Fine, well centred	£12.50

	(b) As above. Another mint pair, in lake-crimson, right stamp showing the PL.2 R5/4 re-entry. Unhinged, centred a little to the right	£15.00
	(c) As above. Four used copies (one in pair with normal), all with identified re-entries	£10.00
613	2d London Print (E5a). Set of four used re-entries, all from Pl. 1, and including R4/3, rated by C.P. as one of the top ten N.Z. re-entries	£15.00
614	2½d Lake Wakitipu. Fine mint copy with the R11/9 variety (EV7a) — the only one recorded on this error-of-spelling stamp	£22.50
615(a)	2½d Lake Wakitipu. Superb set of seven plated E8a copies, all showing listed London Plate re-entries. A magnificent lot, used	£62.50
	(b) As above. Finest mint block of four, perf. 11 unwmk'd (E8b), including the R3/5 minor variety — the only one recorded on this plate. Also included, at no extra charge, is a used copy, perf. 14 (E8d), with the same variety	£30.00
	(c) As above. Used copy, perf. 11, with variety Watermark Inverted (E8cY). Very scarce, but light creasing allows	£12.50
	(d) As above. Very fine mint copy, same issue, but with variety Watermark Reversed. Unlisted, but like the 'invert' above, very scarce	£27.50
616(a)	3d Huia. Fine mint copies of the London Print (E9a), showing the R5/9, R5/12 and R6/10 re-entries, offered at less than the price of three normal stamps. The set of mint re-entries	£27.50
	(b) As above. The same three re-entries, but fine used	£13.50
	(c) As above. Three fine shades of the perf. 11 issue (E9c), and three equally fine shades perf. 14 (E9d) — all six copies having wmk. letters. A most unusual group of 3d's, all finest used	£12.50
617(a)	4d White Terraces. Marginal block of four in deep rose, including the R2/5 re-entry (EV11b). Nice!	£35.00
	(b) As above. Bottom right corner block of four (dull rose shade), including the R10/11 re-entry (EV11f)	£30.00
	(c) As above. Yet another block, this one in lake-rose, and including the R1/10 and R2/9 re-entries — both major	£50.00
	(d) As above. Two mint pairs, in beautifully contrasting shades. One pair includes the good R5/5 re-entry, the other has the major one on R8/8	£37.50
618(a)	4d Lake Taupo. The R8/10 re-entry (EV12b) in mint block of four, perf. 11 unwmk'd (E12a). A fine used copy showing the same variety is included	£18.50
	(b) As above. An exactly similar offer in all respects, except that block and single are perf. 14 (E12c)	£15.00

(c)	As above. No less than three examples of the major R1/3 re-entry (EV12a) — (i) in mint pair with normal on E12a; (ii) in mint single of E12b; and (iii) in mint corner strip of three of E12c. Wonderful coverage!	£40.00
(d)	As above. The same R1/3 re-entry, but on a fine used copy of E12b. Rare thus	£42.50
(e)	As above. Perfectly centred, fine mint pair of the attractive final comb perf. issue (E12f), the right stamp showing the prominent blue plate flaw which occurred on R2/2	£24.00
619(a)	5d Otira Gorge. Superb mint pair, perf. 11 wmk'd (E13c) in deep brown, right stamp showing the R7/12 re-entry (EV13g) — plus a used copy of E13b showing the same variety	£25.00
(b)	As above. London Print copy in deep sepia (E13a5), looks superb used, but almost certainly cancelled 'by favour'. Nevertheless, a chance to fill an otherwise impossible gap at	£22.50
620	6d Kiwi (Red). Mint block of four, perf. 11 unwmk'd (E14c) in deep rose-red including the listed R1/1 re-entry (EV14b), and the lesser one on R1/2	£75.00
KING GEORGE V SURFACE-PRINTS — VARIETIES		
621(a)	½d Green. Unhinged mint copy on De La Rue paper with variety Watermark Inverted (K13aV). Very scarce	£25.00
(b)	As above. Cowan paper, perf. 14 x 15, top marginal block of four overprinted Official, with upper pair officially patched in (to replace top row stamps which were subject to extreme plate wear). An interesting block (KO13eY) — this one has part sheet serial number	£16.50
(c)	As above. Another block, this one without top selvage, but the upper pair of stamps are clearly from row no. 1, showing pronounced plate wear. From a sheet which was not 'doctored' by the authorities, thus a fine companion for the previous item	£7.50
(d)	As above. Fine mint copy, Cowan paper, perf. 14, with variety No Stop After OFFICIAL (KO13fZ). Supplied with a normal for comparison	£17.50
622(a)	1d Field Marshal. Major error Pair, Imperforate (K15aW). Lightly hinged, but very fine and fresh mint	£62.50
(b)	As above. Top marginal copy showing variety Imperf at Top. Finest mint (K15aV)	£35.00
(c)	As above. Very fine mint horizontal pair with Official overprint, one stamp normal, the other with the listed 'No Stop' variety (KO15aX)	£12.50
623	1½d Black (Local Plate). Good commercially used copy with the constant and notable R1/11 plate variety (K16aX)	£9.50
624	1½d Orange-Brown. Brilliant unhinged mint marginal block of four, perf. 14, with Official overprint, upper right stamp showing the 'No Stop' variety (KO17cZ)	£57.50

625	2d Wiggins Teape Paper, Perf. 14 x 15. Superb unhinged mint copy (orange shade), with variety Watermark Inverted (K18gY)	£18.50
626(a)	2d Wiggins Teape Paper, Perf. 14. Top marginal example in yellow, showing variety Imperf. at Top (K18hX). Mint unhinged	£37.50
(b)	As above. Another example of the same variety, fine appearance, but gum tone spots, hence only	£10.00
627	2d 'Official' Overprint. Finest mint pair, perf. 14, one stamp with 'No Stop' variety (KO18eZ)	£22.50
628	3d Cowan Paper, Perf. 14. Good mint copy with R6/8 Flaw on Face variety (K19dZ)	£15.00
629(a)	3d Cowan Paper, Perf. 14 x 15. Unhinged mint example with Official overprint, showing the same R6/8 Face Flaw (KO19cY)	£22.50
(b)	As above. Unused pair, one stamp with 'No Stop After Official' (KO19cZ). Facially fine but gummed-side defects allow	£10.00

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1958 HEALTH RARITY

Retouches to tents are well known and relatively common on the miniature sheets of the 3d + 1d value. But similar retouches on the large sheet stamps are a different kettle of fish. Only five impressions received attention (all on the extreme right of the sheet), and the retouching must have been done very late in the life of the plate, for examples are rarely seen. We have available two top right corner blocks of four, with sheet value marking. In one block, R1/20 is normal; in the other, **the tent at extreme right on this stamp is prominently retouched.** The pair of blocks, lightly hinged in selvedge only, superb and rare

£67.50

RECENT ISSUES

1992 Navigators (issued 12/3/1992) 45c, 80c, \$1, \$1.50.

Mint set of four stamps	£2.30
Complete set of 4 imprint blocks (one each value)	£15.75
Official Illustrated F.D.C. (Wanganui pmk.)	£2.55

1992 Olympic Design (issued 3/4/1992) 45c. In January last year N.Z. Post organised a "Design a Stamp Competition" to commemorate the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. Ten designs made it through to the competition final, the winning designer being Sheryl McCammon from Invercargill.

Mint single	30p
Imprint block of 8 stamps (included are all the normal imprint details, plus the new bar code under R10/4)	£2.75
Official illustrated F.D.C. (Wanganui pmk.)	55p

1992 Ross Dependency Seals (issued 8/4/1992) 45c, 50c, 65c, 80c, \$1, \$1.80.

Mint set of 6 stamps	£3.10
Complete set of 6 imprint blocks (one each value)	£22.00
Official illustrated F.D.C. (Wanganui pmk.)	£3.35