

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN

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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

Second Pictorial 9d. Having only partially explained in this month's 9d offers (q.v.) the incidence of selvedge bars in this value, it has struck me that some readers might be rather mystified. Since it's quite an interesting subject, I will attempt to clarify the position more fully.

Selvedge bars found (invariably printed in black or grey-black according to the particular issue concerned) are of two types, each serving a distinct and different purpose:

- (i) Short bars, approx. 17mm in length. These are "buffer" bars, similar to those occurring in some earlier surfaced-printed issues, e.g. 1d Map Stamp, 1929 and 1930 Healths, and they are present to prevent damage to the plate during printing.
- (ii) Continuous, unbroken bars. These are security devices, their purpose being to prevent possible fraudulent use of wider-than-usual selvedges.

Buffer bars never occur in any of the original design 9ds (L11a, L11b, L11c). On the other hand, they are **always** present on all printings of the reduced design 9d. (L11d, L11e). They are positioned in the top selvedge, one bar above every stamp in the top row **except the last** (the space here being occupied by the sheet serial number).

The presence or absence of **security** bars, and their positioning, is somewhat more complex, and best dealt with issue by issue:

- L11a — never present (this is the only 9d issue where no bars of any kind appeared in any of the selvedges, which were not wide enough to cause official concern, and in any event see my later comments on the single watermark paper vis-a-vis L11d.)
- L11b — the first printing had no bars, although it was the fact that the sheet selvedges were dangerously wide on all sides which alerted the authorities to the possibility of fraudulent use. All subsequent printings of L11b had a continuous bar, 4mm wide, in all four selvedges, forming a complete unbroken 'frame' around the sheet of stamps. The inner edges of the bars were approx. 10mm from the nearest design. Selvedge pieces proving the pre-bars state are rare.
- L11c — earlier printings had acceptably narrow selvedges at the top and sides of sheets, but the bottom selvedge was exceptionally wide even by 9d standards, and necessitated the use of two bars (each approx. 4½mm thick), the inner edges of the bars being approx. 12½mm and 19mm respectively below the bottom framelines of the

- nearest stamps. In later printings, the bottom selvage was considerably narrower, but still wide enough to require one 4½mm-thick bar, which was placed in a similar position to the inner bar of the two-bar printings.
- L11d – all sheets were without security bars, although the bottom selvage was again abnormally wide. This suggests that the prime concern of the authorities was with unprinted areas of **multiple** watermarked paper (i.e. with NZ and Star wmk.) rather than the letters wmk/no wmk. selvages of the single watermark paper.
- L11e – the first few sheets printed (reportedly 200) appeared without security bars. This was certainly an error of omission, for the bottom selvage was again dangerously wide. At that point the authorities apparently became even more obsessed with security, for the next printings appeared with **two** bars in the bottom selvage (although one would have sufficed) and, for good measure a vertical bar in the **left** selvage too! In this case, the vertical bar, and the upper of those in the bottom selvage, were narrow (2mm), the lower bottom selvage bar being 4½mm thick. In all subsequent printings, only one bar (thick) appeared in the bottom selvage, and this was invariably accompanied by a thin vertical bar in the **right** selvage.

As I said, an interesting aspect of an apparently fairly uninteresting stamp, and incidentally an intriguing insight into the workings of the official mind of the period.

40c Self-Adhesive. Readers may have noted (in last month's 'New Issues and Varieties' notes from C.P. Newsletter Monthly) the statement that rolls of these self-adhesives were made by joining four printed sheets end to end, and subsequently guillotining into vertical strips to form the rolls as issued.

This was apparently a considerable over-simplification of what must be quite a complex process. In the first place, of the four strips making up each issued roll, the first two (counting from the outer end) are identical, the third is different, and the fourth is different again, because of the format and disposition of the four non-stamp labels occurring within each roll. It follows that sheets had to be joined in a pre-determined and specific order to make the rolls as issued. For ease of reference, I'll call the four component sheets types X,X,Y and Z respectively.

Secondly, in every roll we have seen (of both the short-lived 40c, and the 45c which superseded it) there has been clear evidence of a join **at the beginning of the roll**, identical to those at the junction of each component strip. Our conclusion is that:

- (1) A 'master' roll, of unknown length, but certainly of many more than four sheets, was made by joining sheets continuously in the strict order X,X,Y,Z,X,X,Y,Z,X,X,Y,Z, and so on.
- (2) This master roll was subsequently guillotined both horizontally (into units the length of the issued roll) and vertically (into strips), although we have no evidence to indicate which of the guillotining operations came first.

The whole process seems, on the face of it, to be fraught with possibilities for error – either of original make-up, or of subsequent guillotining, or both – but we haven't yet seen or heard of any.

SECOND PICTORIAL MULTIPLE WMK. ISSUES (Continued)

- 901(a) **8d Tuatara, Perf. 14 x 13½, Wmk. Sideways (L10b).** Two unhinged mint copies in sepia and deep brown respectively. Lovely contrasts £17.50
- (b) **As above.** Unhinged mint copy (this one in sepia-brown) with variety Watermark Inverted (L10bZ) £13.75

(c)	As above. Plate block of four (pl. no. A2), also in sepia-brown. Superfine mint	£27.50
902(a)	8d Perf. 14 x 13½, Wmk. Upright (L10c). Unhinged marginal block of four in sepia	£8.25
(b)	As above. Plate block of four (pl. no. 3). Finest mint	£10.50
903(a)	8d Perf. 12½ (L10d). Unhinged mint copy, deep red-sepia	£2.40
(b)	As above. Marginal block of four, same shade, mint unhinged	£10.00
(c)	As above. Plate block of four (pl. no. 3), in deep red sepia or sepia-brown, each block	£12.50
(d)	As above. Unhinged mint copy overprinted Official (LO10d)	£8.00
(e)	As above, but lightly hinged mint	£3.75
904(a)	8d Perf. 14 x 14½, Coarse Paper (L10e). Single copy, mint unhinged	£1.75
(b)	As above. Plate block of four, pl. no. 3 or 4, each block, finest mint	£8.00
(c)	As above. Set of two plate no. 3 blocks (no side selvage). In one block, R15/10 is normal (pre re-entry); in the other this stamp shows the late re-entry — doubling of the design is minimal, but the stamp is visibly deeper and denser in shade than its neighbours. The two blocks	£19.50
(d)	As above. Cracking developed on plate 3, affecting R3/5-6, and resulting in the "Tongue Out" variety on R3/5 (LV10b) — here offered in marginal positional block of six, with the Waterlow 15-dot shift marking in the selvage. Superb mint	£37.50
(e)	As above. Similar block, matching the previous block in every detail, but overprinted Official (LO10eY)	£37.50
(f)	As above. Plate block (pl. no. 3), with Official overprint	£20.00
905(a)	9d Maori Panel, Perf. 14 x 15, Wmk. Sideways (L11b). Set of three fine mint, showing excellent shades of both frame and centre	£25.00
(b)	As above. Corner block with sheet serial number, and broad black 'security bar' in top and side selvage (normal for this issue — the bars formed a complete frame around the sheet of stamps, and appeared on all sheets except the earliest printed). The superb block, hinged in selvage only	£85.00
906(a)	9d Perf. 14 x 14½, Wmk. Upright (L11c). With the change to upright wmk., the top and side selvages were no longer wide enough to require security bars so in this issue, bars appeared in the bottom selvage only. At first, when this selvage was extremely wide, there were two bars; later, when the selvage was somewhat narrower, there was one bar. The following finest mint blocks demonstrate all of these facts perfectly:	

(i)	Bottom selvedge block of four, two selvedge bars	£90.00
(ii)	Bottom selvedge block of four, one selvedge bar	£100.00
(iii)	Top right corner block of four (with sheet serial number), no selvedge bars	£87.50
(b)	As above. Another sheet serial no. corner block, this one in an astonishing shade combination of extraordinarily bright red and even more extraordinarily pale grey. Has to be seen to be appreciated. The striking block	£100.00
(c)	As above. Unhinged mint copy with variety Watermark Inverted (L11cZ) ..	£25.00
(d)	As above, but lightly hinged mint	£13.50
(e)	As above. Mint copy overprinted Official in green. Unhinged, and scarce thus .	£70.00
(f)	As above, but lightly hinged, and very fine. Cat. \$70. Special price	£20.00
(g)	As above. Corner copy, with sheet serial number. Finest mint, lightly hinged ..	£32.50
907(a)	9d Reduced Design, Single Wmk. (L11d). The good one — unhinged mint, and carrying our unconditional guarantee	£62.50
(b)	As above, but fine lightly hinged copy	£32.50
(c)	As above. For someone who prefers his guarantee to be self-evident in the stamp itself — a marginal copy (L11dZ), proving the 'Single' watermark absolutely. Very light hinge in selvedge only, stamp unhinged	£72.50
(d)	As above. A nice used copy with similar built-in provenance — this one has part of the selvedge letters wmk. on the stamp itself. Unusual!	£22.50
908(a)	9d Reduced Design, Multiple Wmk. (L11e). Bottom selvedge block of four, with two black bars	£10.75
(b)	As above. Top left corner block of four, without black bar in left selvedge (this is from a sheet with one black bar in bottom selvedge)	£8.75
(c)	As above. Unhinged mint copy overprinted Official in black (LO11e). Cat. \$50. Special offer at	£12.50
(d)	As above, but very lightly hinged	£7.50
(e)	As above. Bottom selvedge block of four with two bars, OR left selvedge block with bar. (It is not recorded whether the later one-bar-at-bottom-one-bar-at-right sheets were also overprinted Official). Either block, stamps mint unhinged	£110.00

PENNY UNIVERSAL

- 909** A magnificent set of eleven mint blocks of four — one block from each of the listings G1 — G11 in the C.P. Catalogue, all fully identified. One stamp in the G9 block has a small perf. fault, otherwise condition throughout is incredibly fine (seven blocks are unhinged, four are very lightly hinged). A superb, ready-made "simplified" collection as it stands, or a wonderful basis on which

to build a specialised display. Minimum Cat. over \$1,880, an unrepeatable offer at only £375.00

Alas, just one order for the above can be filled, but we can offer an excellent range of individual blocks as follows:

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| 910 | G1a — London Print. Mint unhinged block | £25.00 |
| 911 | G2a — 'Pirie' Paper, Perf. 11. Unhinged block in carmine or deep carmine, each | £25.00 |
| 912 | G2b — 'Pirie' Paper, Perf. 14. Brilliantly centred marginal block in deep carmine. Very lightly hinged on upper pair only | £117.50 |
| 913 | G3a — Basted Mills Paper, Perf. 11. The gem of the entire listing, for this issue is a true rarity (something like 90% of purported examples we have examined have in fact been the relatively common G2a). The block offered — and a beauty it is, of well-nigh perfect centring — is unconditionally guaranteed. As an additional check, if additional check be needed, the watermark is inverted-and-reversed. Lightly hinged on the upper pair only, we make no apology for the price of | £375.00 |
| 914 | G3b — Basted Mills Paper, Perf. 14. Marginal block (stamps unhinged) in carmine or bright carmine, each block | £40.00 |
| 915 | G3c — Basted Mills Paper, Perf. 11 x 14. Unhinged marginal block in carmine . | £40.00 |
| 916 | G3d — Basted Mills Paper, Perf. 14 x 11. Marginal block (unhinged) in carmine . | £45.00 |
| 917 | G3e — Basted Mills Paper, Mixed Perfs. A superb block, originally perf. 14 x 11, reperfed 11 horizontally. With full official patching, and exceptionally clean and fresh | £275.00 |
| 918 | G4a — Cowan Unwmk'd Paper, Perf. 14. Marginal block in carmine, mint unhinged | £40.00 |
| 919(a) | G5a — Cowan Wmk'd Paper, Perf. 14. Marginal block, stamps unhinged | £20.00 |
| | (b) As above. Set of two finest mint blocks, one an early print (unworn), the other a later print (from worn plate). Remarkable contrasts | £32.50 |
| 920 | G6a — Reserve Plate, Perf. 14. Lovely unhinged mint block in a typically full rich shade | £125.00 |
| 921(a) | G8a — Dot Plates, Perf. 14. Three magnificent shades in mint blocks (one notably worn plate). The odd gum tone more than fully allowed for in the price | £37.50 |
| | (b) As above. A superb mint block of 9 (3 x 3), in a bright shade (unworn) | £35.00 |
| 922(a) | G8d — Dot Plates, Mixed Perfs. By their very nature, mixed perf. varieties tend to be of more or less tatty appearance. Not so in the case of this block, however. It's an absolute beauty, and showing all the hallmarks of "mixed" to perfection — original (horizontal) perfs. gauging 14 misplaced, officially patched, and | |

reperforated 11 to complete the rectification. The exceptional mixed perfs. block	£82.50
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(b) As above. The only single stamp in the listing, and an opportunity not to be missed by the collector wishing to have a fine representative example of mixed perforations	£20.00
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| 923(a) G10a — Royle Plates, Perf. 14. Fine mint block in rose-carmine | £12.50 |
| (b) As above. Marginal block (stamps unhinged) in the brilliant, distinctive and aptly-named Blood-Red shade. Cat. \$ 180 | £50.00 |
| (c) As above. An incredible set of four blocks in the C.P.-listed shades. In a word, dazzling! | £125.00 |
| 924 G10d — Royle Plates, Perf. 11 x 14. Last but not least, a very fine mint block of this compound perf. (considerably scarcer than the perf. 11 all round, no matter what may be implied by catalogue ratings) | £250.00 |

THE PAST REVISITED

We recently had occasion to open a sealed 1932 air cover, and discovered an advertising handout from a British Colonial Stamp Dealer, in Auckland. The handout concentrated on first flight covers, and included an offer of 100 different N.Z. flights for 300/- (£15), OR 100 different all **pilot signed** for £22 (and all obviously 1932 or earlier!). What would anyone give for such an offer today!

UNUSUAL FIRST FLIGHT COVERS

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| 925 July 1930 covers carried on the Karachi — London Air Service are relatively common. This one, however, is unusual, being a printed advertising cover for the ALFA LAVAL SEPARATOR, by the agents Mason, Struthers & Co. Ltd. Franked with three K.G.V adhesives, and is as fresh as the day it was posted .. | £30.00 |
| 926 6 NOV 1930. Two covers (one illustrated, the other plain) carried on each leg of the Christchurch — Dunedin — Christchurch Service, both pilot signed by McGregor | £40.00 |
| 927 JAN 1936 Inauguration of the Nelson-Wellington-Blenheim-Nelson Service. The Airmails Handbook Volume 1 (page 40) records only five operating days when mail was carried. This example (Blenheim — Nelson) bears both departure and arrival datestamps of 9 JAN 1936 (the only recorded date for this leg), and is signed by pilot Bolt | £75.00 |
| 928 24 SEPT 1939 Trans-Tasman Survey Flight by the Flying Boat "AOTEAROA". Cover posted at Auckland, signed by pilot Burgess , but unfortunately not backstamped at Sydney on arrival. A rare flight (included is a photograph of the the Aotearoa) | £37.50 |
| 929 23 FEB 1945 Emergency flight by R.N.Z.A.F. on 22, 23, 24th Feb 1945 (due to disastrous floods cutting both road and rail links in Canterbury and North Otago) between Christchurch — Oamaru — Dunedin. This cover is dated the 23rd, Christchurch to Dunedin, backstamped on arrival, and bearing the Air | |

- 930 Overseas Flights.** Most overseas flight covers from New Zealand are addressed to Australia, U.K. or U.S.A. The following are all addressed to more unusual destinations:
- (i) **1930 Cover (20 NOV)** via the U.S.A. Air Mail Service, to Mexico, backstamped on arrival £27.50
 - (ii) **MAR 1932 Cover**, carried via U.S.A./Canada, addressed to Italy, backstamped on arrival £27.50
 - (iii) **15 JULY 1932 Cover** carried on the official N.Z. — Africa flight from Wellington (with special Wellington cachet) and addressed to Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia (only 48 carried to Rhodesia/Nyasaland) £47.50
 - (iv) **1932 Cover**, carried via the Karachi — South Africa air service, addressed to Luxor, Egypt and then returned to N.Z. Numerous Egyptian markings . £17.50
- 931 Disaster Mail.** On 27 NOV 1938 The Flying Boat "Calpurnia" crashed in Lake Ramadi, Iraq, en route to Australia as part of the Empire "All-up" Air Mail Service. Mail recovered from the crash had one of five different cachets applied. The following two offers are in typical crash cover condition:
- (i) **Envelope addressed to N.Z.**, three-lined cachet RECEIVED AT/WELLINGTON/IN DAMAGED CONDITION, applied in purple £27.50
 - (ii) **Larger Envelope addressed to N.Z.**, two-lined cachet RECEIVED IN DAMAGED CONDITION/EX FLYING BOAT CALPURNIA, also applied in purple . £27.50
- 932 Disaster Mail.** On 13th March 1954 a B.O.A.C. Qantas "Constellation" crashed at Kallang Airport, Singapore. This N.Z. — U.K. envelope is complete with boxed cachet in red SALVAGED MAIL/AIRCRAFT CRASH/SINGAPORE 13.3.1954. £17.50

KING GEORGE VI VARIETIES

All offers are mint unless otherwise stated.

- 933(a) ½d Green (M1a).** Used copy of the seldom seen plate 10, R3/18 variety — MV1a(a) £15.00
- (b) As above.** Two used singles, plate 2 R10/4 and plate 19 R7/5 retouches — MV1a(b) £9.00
- 934(a) ½d Chestnut, Fine HM Paper (M1b).** Positional block of 24, with plate no. 19 in left selvedge, also includes the major R7/5 retouch — MV1b. Seldom available in large block £25.00
- (b) As above.** The same R7/5 retouch, used single £6.50
- 935 ½d Chestnut, Fine VM Paper (M1c).** Marginal block of ten (2 x 5) with defective wmk. variety £15.00
- 936(a) ½d Chestnut, Coarse Paper (M1d).** Imprint/plate (101) block of six with erroneous partial double perfs. in the bottom selvedge — these "extra" perfs. slant diagonally upward across the sheet from left to right £17.50

(b)	As above. Emphasising the above point, this marginal block of four (from further to the right in the sheet) shows the erroneous doubled perfs now extending virtually completely through the bottom selvage	£17.50
(c)	As above. Top left corner block of six, showing the plate 111 R1/3 graver slip	£10.00
(d)	As above. Corner block of twelve (2 x 6) including imprint/plate (133) marking, and R5/24 graver slip variety	£10.00
937(a)	1d Scarlet (M2a). Block of four from plate 8, with the R6/6 major medallion flaw in its fully developed state — MV2a(g)(iii)	£17.50
(b)	As above. Corner block of 25, with plate no. 8 in the right selvage. Includes the R2/21 and 5/20 retouches — MV2a(e and f). Unusual in such a large multiple. A few light gum tone spots, facially superb	£75.00
(c)	As above. Used block of four, from plate 6, with R5/14-15 retouches — MV2a(b)	£12.50
(d)	As above. A collection of 14 used stamps, being one example of every plated variety listed in the C.P. Catalogue except MV2a(e), plus three others mentioned in the N.Z. Handbook, Vol. 4. Extremely unusual lot, and virtually impossible to duplicate now. (Cat. as mint blocks, well in excess of \$ 485)	£67.50
(Note:	These stamps are mostly identified on the back, in the hand of the late Frank Mohr, who was, for many years, the recognised 'Guru' of the K.G.VI issues.)	
938(a)	1d Green, Fine HM Paper (M2b). Marginal block of nine, including the pl. 29 R4/3 and 6/3 "weak top to ornament" (good naked-eye varieties)	£27.50
(b)	As above. Marginal block of six from plate 31, with R3/17 retouch — MV2c(e)	£20.00
939(a)	1d Green Fine VM Paper (M2c). Marginal block of ten with defective Wmk. variety	£15.00
(b)	As above. Imprint/plate block of eight, on very thin "translucent" paper ..	£12.50
(c)	As above. Marginal block of six showing partial treble perfs. in bottom selvage	£20.00
(d)	As above. Watermark Inverted variety (M2cZ), a brilliant unmounted mint marginal block of four (Cat. \$ 200)	£60.00
(e)	As above. Imprint/plate (28) block of 15 including the R8/10 retouch — MV2c(c). A little light-toning, hence	£10.00
(f)	As above. Corner block of four from plate 28, with the R9/1 major retouch — MV2c(d)	£17.50
(g)	As above. Block of six stamps, with the pl. 29 R4/3 and 6/3 weak ornament varieties (see also lot 938(a) above)	£15.00
(h)	As above. Corner block of eight, including the pl. 36 R4/2 retouch — MV2c(f) ..	£10.00