

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

Reel Joins. Users of the C.P. Catalogue will find listings of these scarce varieties scattered here and there among the more modern issues. As the description implies, they are found only in stamps which were printed 'in the web', or 'on the reel' (as opposed to those printed on sheet-fed machines), and are the result of the manual joining of the end of one reel of paper to the start of another in order to maintain a continuous flow of paper through the printing press.

Normally those sheets printed across the join would subsequently be discarded, but due to human error the occasional one has slipped through the inspection procedure and been issued. Most of those we have seen had not been marked in any way to alert the checker, but one (in the 1953 Coronation 3d) was from a sheet which had had the words 'WASTE' stamped in large letters along the join.

There seems to have been little or no consistency in the actual mechanics of effecting the joining of the reels. There is invariably some overlapping of the ends of the reels, but this varies in extent — we have seen examples with more than an inch of overlap, and others with just a few millimetres. In some cases the join appears to have been made simply by damping the (already gummed) back of the paper to be overlapped. In others, varying kinds of tape have been employed. We have recently acquired an example in the 1960 Pictorial 1/- where bright yellow self-adhesive tape, about 1½ inches wide, was used. In the intervening years since, the dyes and adhesive from the tape have permeated through the paper and played absolute havoc with the appearance of the stamps, but of course such examples remain an interesting collector's item. (See lots 1141 a-c offered elsewhere in this Bulletin).

Unless the edge of the overlapped paper falls in the selvedge, or precisely in the gutter between two rows of stamps, the inevitable result is a row of stamps very akin to the well-known and keenly sought 'Overlap' varieties found among the Richardson-printed Foul-Face Queens. The most desirable of the latter are those which would in fact be more accurately termed 'Underlaps', i.e. with part of the design unprinted. But because of their very nature, it is well-nigh impossible to match up such items with the companion piece carrying the portion of the design which is missing. With a reel-join piece, however, one invariably has the two elements married together.

FROM C.P. NEWSLETTER MONTHLY

40c Self-adhesive Stamp: *Jim Lawrence of Opotiki writes as he is intrigued by the very short period of issue of the 40c self-adhesive. Asks Jim:*

"If the change was known in advance, as it probably was for the time required for preparation of increased postage, why issue the stamps at all?"

Jim sent us a copy of a letter he received from N.Z. Post Philatelic Headquarters offering an explanation. Mr. David Bignall wrote:

"At the time Pauline Morse designed the low denomination bird stamps (10c to 90c), we asked her to provide us with an additional three or four designs. Once these were received we handed them to our stamp printers in Australia and asked them to prepare proofs for us to approve, which were complete in all details except for denomination. This was done and the proofs returned to the printers with our instructions to proceed only when we contacted them and could advise them the amount of the denominations. The printer held these approved proofs for more than twelve months. Similarly, in anticipation of an eventual rate increase, we also had a new stamp booklet designed. This type of practice is not uncommon — it allows the philatelic area to meet the restrictive deadlines of the postal business people.

In the event we did not receive a great deal of notice about the rate increase, We certainly were not aware of it when we ordered the peel and stick stamps, (i.e. 40c). As it turned out the initial supply of these stamps adequately met customer requirements for the two and a half months they were on sale.

Because of our public commitment to the release of the Personal Message stamps booklets, we had little option but to release these on the 15th May. As they are regarded as a definitive stamp, we arranged for them to be reprinted at the new rate. While we have some surplus of these booklets, it is not significant.

Regarding the booklets stapling, Mr. Bignall went on:

Booklets stapling is a fully automated process. The booklets are manufactured five up. In other words, tellers always get booklets joined together in groups of five and tear them apart. They come off the assembly line and are stapled five at a time by machine. We are currently working with our stamp printers to find a better way of securing booklets. The option I prefer, and the one I hope we ultimately adopt, will have booklet covers sealed with one or two glue droplets, in the same manner as British stamp booklets."

SECOND PICTORIAL MULTIPLE WMK. ISSUED (Concluded)

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|--|---------|
| 1101(a) 2/- Capt. Cook Landing, Perf. 13½ x 13½ (L13g). Finest mint set of three copies, from plates 1, 2 and 3 — see Temp. Page L10 in the C.P. Catalogue for details of the differences in stamps from the three plates | £15.00 |
| (b) As above. Marginal copy showing the Pl. 1, R1/4 COQK variety. Scarce in this issue | £37.50 |
| (c) As above. Corner strip of three (R10/10–12), from plate 1, showing the rather vague plate crack which subsequently led to these impressions being re-entered. Rare ! Very minor gum tone spot in selvage clear of stamp, otherwise immaculate (LV13h(X)). A matching strip of L13f in the re-entered state is included | £175.00 |

(d) As above. Very fine used copy from plate 2, with the scarce variety Double Print, One Albino (L13gY). The characteristic blurring of the entire design is very pronounced	£35.00
(e) As above. Superb set of three plate blocks (four stamps each block), with plate numbers 1, 2 and 3 respectively	£150.00
(f) As above. Individual plate blocks are available as follows:	
(i) Plate 1 (scarce)	£80.00
(ii) Plate 2	£50.00
(iii) Plate 3	£50.00
(iv) Plate 2, stamps overprinted Official. Scarce	£120.00
(v) Plate 3, stamps overprinted Official. Scarce	£120.00
1102(a) 3/- Mt. Egmont, Perf. 14—13 x 13½ (L14d). The listed frame shades in this issue are quite outstanding. The plate blocks offered here prove the point admirably. We have one with yellow-brown frames, and one with tan-brown — brilliant contrasts! Available individually at, each block £80.00 , or the pair of blocks	£150.00
(b) As above. Unhinged mint copy (tan-brown frame) with variety Watermark Inverted (L14dZ)	£24.00
(c) As above, but fine lightly hinged example	£12.50
(d) As above. Plate block, again in the 'tan' shade, and with Watermark Inverted. Very light hinge in selvage only	£100.00
1103(a) 3/- Perf. 12½ (L14e). The scarce one! Superb unhinged mint copy	£40.00
(b) As above, but very fine, lightly hinged	£20.00
(c) As above. Superfine mint plate block of four	£150.00
1104(a) 3/-, Perf. 13¾ x 13½, Coarse Paper (L14f). Much the scarcer of the two final issues on coarse paper (which are, incidentally, not recognised as separate entities in most catalogues, although the horizontal perfs. differ by a full ½-point on the standard gauge). Unhinged mint copy	£17.50
(b) As above. Superfine mint plate block of four. Apart from the difference in gauge, this (and any other piece with side selvage attached) is instantly recognisable from the 14¾ x 13½ issue (L14g) by the fact that the horizontal perforations extend all the way across the selvage, while in L14g there is just one extension hole at each side. The scarce block	£87.50
1105(a) 3/-, Perf. 14¾ x 13½, Coarse Paper (L14g). Unhinged mint copy	£5.75
(b) As above. Superfine mint plate block of four	£30.00
(c) As above. Positional bottom selvage block of four including the major R9/4 centre plate re-entry. While extensive doubling of the design is evident under a glass (particularly of the sky shading in the right hand half of the stamp), this is a naked-eye variety, the entire centre being visibly darker and heavier in appearance than in the neighbouring stamps. The fine variety block	£35.00

- (d) **As above.** Although R9/4 is only one of many listed plate varieties, major and minor, there is curiously no mention (in either the C.P. Catalogue or the N.Z. Handbooks) of R10/2. Yet this, the lower right stamp in a standard plate block of four, is a particularly interesting one. At first it was normal, but at some stage during the later printings, small but noticeable centre plate flaws developed in the sky to the left and right of the mountain peak. The flaw at left disappeared, leaving a circular colourless area ("moon over mountain"); at this stage the right-hand flaw remained in evidence; later the colourless area was removed by finely-executed retouching, and only the tiniest trace of the flaw at right remained visible. Our set of four plate blocks demonstrates this progression to perfection. A magnificent quartet of blocks . £150.00

KING GEORGE V RECESS-PRINTED

A further part of the listing of new stock commenced last month.

1106	3d (K4a). Brilliant unhinged block, deep chocolate, early print (no plate wear)	£42.50
1107	3d (K4b). Marginal block, including the Plate 19, Row 7/1 re-entry (although not listed, this is very similar to some of the 4d Pl. 44 re-entries, with clear doubling of the moustache and nose shading). The block, again an early deep chocolate, 3UH/1LH	£42.50
1108	3d (K4c). Two-perf. block in chocolate-brown, worn plate. 2LH/2UH, superb .	£47.50
1109	3d 'Pictorial' Paper (K4d). Very fine block (3UH/1LH)	£16.75
1110(a)	4d Yellow (K5a). Finest mint blocks in yellow and orange-yellow. The two blocks, lovely contrasts	£50.00
	(b) As above. Mint marginal block including the major R1/6 re-entry (KV5a(a)). Hinge stain in selvage, stamps unhinged	£40.00
	(c) As above. The other major plate 20 re-entry, R4/10 (KV5a(b)) in fine mint block (2LH/2UH)	£42.50
1111 (a)	4d Yellow (K5b). Marginal block in yellow. Unhinged	£25.00
	(b) As above. Another block (2LH/2UH), in a deeper yellow shade	£18.00
1112	4d Yellow (K5c). Two-perf. block, superfine (3UH/1LH)	£29.50
1113(a)	4d Violet, Pl. 20 (K5d). Finest mint block in the bright shade	£27.50
	(b) As above. Similar block, but in dull violet	£27.50
	(c) As above. Another block in dull violet, this one showing notable plate wear (K5dY)	£27.50
1114(a)	4d Violet, Pl. 20 (K5e). Superb block in bright violet	£35.00

(b) As above. Another perf. 14 x 14¼ block, but in dull violet. 'Dulls' are markedly scarcer in this perf. — the overwhelming majority of stamps in this shade are from the later 'perf. 14 x 13¼ throughout' printings	£42.50
1115(a) 4d Violet, Pl. 20 (K5f). Two-perf. block, bright violet, superfine	£42.50
(b) As above, similarly fine block in dull violet	£58.75
1116(a) 4d Deep Purple, Pl. 44 (K5g). Finest mint block on Cowan paper	£24.50
(b) As above. Set of three marginal blocks (one a corner block) all on Cowan paper, in a fine range of shades including the blackish violet. Exceptionally fine — two stamps lightly hinged, ten unhinged	£125.00
(c) As above. Marginal block (Cowan paper, deep dull purple shade), showing the R10/11 re-entry. Although unlisted, the adjoining stamp, R10/10, also shows re-entry doubling, notably in the lines of the face, ear-lobe and neck ..	£37.50
(d) As above. Finest mint block on esparto paper, including the listed R10/9 re-entry	£29.00
(e) As above. Another 'esparto' block, this one showing the major R3/8 re-entry and the equally major R4/7 retouch (both illustrated in the C.P. Catalogue). Negligible perf. tone	£49.50
1117(a) 4d Deep Purple, Pl. 44 (K5h). A very scarce stamp in any grade, but especially so in superfine mint block (2LH, 2UH) as offered here	£110.00
(b) As above. Unhinged bottom marginal block of brilliant facial appearance, but a few minor gum tones allow	£65.00
1118 4½d Deep Green (K6b). An exquisite block (2LH, 2UH)	£49.50
1119(a) 5d Blue (K7a). Superb mint block in the blue shade. Merest trace of a hinge on the upper pair	£24.50
(b) As above. The ultimate in shade reference sets — mint blocks in each of the three listed categories of blue, ultramarine and steel blue. Resolve the 5d shades problem for ever with this set; the contrasts are absolutely astounding ..	£110.00
1120(a) 5d Blue (K7b). A magnificent top marginal block in the blue shade (scarcer in this perf.). An additional attraction (at no extra cost) is that a missing perf. pin repeats in each of the three strikes of the comb head present in the block	£80.00
(b) As above. An action replay, in perf. 14 x 14¼, of the shades set offered as lot 1119(b) above. Three blocks — quite dazzling examples of the listed shades. Some dulling of the gum on the ultramarine block due to slight adhesions, otherwise immaculate	£145.00
1121 5d Pale Ultramarine (K7c). Superb two-perf. block (in this case 14 x 14¼ over 14 x 13¼, of course). Perfectly centred, and the lightest possible hinge at top centre	£65.00

HEALTH INVERTED WATERMARKS

1122	1934 Crusader. Corner mint block of four, hinged just once in the selvedge, with W7a (watermark sideways) — the normal watermark for this stamp is W7b (sideways-inverted). A little light gum toning does not detract from a scarce multiple. The block (T6aZ), Cat. \$ 400, offered at	£90.00
1123(a)	1945 Peter Pan 1d + ½d. Corner block of 4 with Inverted watermark (T17aZ). Completely unhinged mint, and sheer perfection	£160.00
	(b) As above, but marginal single, unhinged	£45.00
1124	1946 Health 1d + ½d. Imprint block of four with inverted Watermark (T18aZ). Two stamps mounted, two unmounted, mint	£35.00
1125(a)	1950 Princess Elizabeth/Prince Charles. 1d + ½d value with inverted watermark (T22aY), unmounted mint. The least scarce of all the Health inverts	£4.00
	(b) As above. Marginal blocks of four of both the 1d and 2d values, each with inverted watermark (T22aY, T22bY). The 2d, unlike the 1d, is quite elusive. One 1d stamp hinged, otherwise unhinged mint	£60.00
	(c) As above. Used blocks of four of both values, once again with inverted watermarks. Some creasing on the 1d block, and a heavy cancel on the 2d, hence offered at half the mint price	£30.00
1126(a)	1951 Yachting 2d + 1d. Unmounted mint block of four with inverted watermark (T23bZ)	£140.00
	(b) As above, but unhinged mint single	£37.50
1127(a)	1959 Health 3d + 1d. Unhinged mint example with W8b sideways-inverted watermark (T31bY)	£15.00
	(b) As above. Marginal block of four (stamps unmounted) with the same variety ..	£60.00
	(c) As above. Imprint/plate block of six, also inverted watermark. Hinged on one stamp, and a few splitting perfs., but still unusual thus	£75.00
1128	1964 Health 3d + 1d. Last but by no means least, one of the scarcer Health inverts. Unhinged mint corner copy, from miniature sheet (T36bZ)	£85.00
KING GEORGE VI VARIETIES — Concluded		
1129(a)	1½d Rose-Red, Fine HM Paper (M4b). Truly positional block of 24 stamps, including printer's imprint, and the plate 20 R8/18 second state retouch — MV4b(a)	£45.00
	(b) As above. Block of four with the plate 21 R4/10 retouch — MV4b(b)	£7.50
1130(a)	1½d Rose-Red, Coarse Paper (M4c). Corner block of 24, R8/18 retouch — MV4c(a). Matches lot 1129(a) above	£40.00
	(b) As above. Block of four with the plate 21 R4/10 retouch — MV4c(b)	£7.50

	(c) As above. Massive block of 28 (14 x 2) including imprint/plate no. 32, also R9/11 and 9/18 retouches — MV4c(d and e)	£40.00
1131	3d Blue, Fine VM Paper (M7a). Marginal block of four from plate 39, with the R7/24 retouch	£10.00
1132(a)	3d Blue Fine HM Paper (M7b). Block of 9 (from plate 27 of course), including R3/17 (graver slip) and 3/19 (retouch) varieties	£30.00
	(b) As above. Block of 4 with R9/24 retouch	£20.00
1133(a)	3d Blue, Coarse Paper (M7c). Imprint/plate (45) block of eight on thin paper .	£12.50
	(b) As above. Corner block of 15 from plate 45, with the R8/5 variety (listed in Volume 4)	£10.00
	(c) As above. Marginal block of six with pl. 58 R3/11 retouch — MV7c(a)	£10.00
	(d) As above. Corner block of twelve, also from plate 58, this one showing the R8/21 retouch	£12.50
	(e) As above. Three marginal blocks of four, from plate 63, showing the R1/19 retouch in all three states (first, second and third retouch). Superb set (MV7c(b), (c) and (d)	£50.00
	(f) As above. The same R1/19 variety, first state retouch, in corner block of twelve — unusual thus	£17.50
	(g) As above. Marginal block of six from plate 139, with R2/12 weak entry — MV7c(e)	£10.00
1134	4d Magenta (M8a). Corner block of 12, including R1/6 and 2/4 flaw (MV8a(a))	£12.50
<u>1/- — 3/- Values.</u>		
1135(a)	Centre Plate R11/9 re-entry. Marginal block of ten 1/- (M13b) including this variety — MCV13b(b)	£6.50
	(b) As above. Marginal block of eight, but of the 2/- value — MCV15b(b)	£8.00
1136(a)	1/3d. Plate (3A, 1) block of six stamps with the R15/3 frame re-entry — MFV14a(b)	£15.00
	(b) As above. Marginal block of eight, frame die 1b (M14b). The block includes R13/5 frame die 1a retouch — MFV14b(b) — as well as the R16/6 variety — MFV14b(a)	£8.00
	(c) As above. A matching block of eight on upright wmk. paper (M14c), also including the R13/5 and 16/6 varieties	£8.00
1137	2/- Wmk. Sideways (M15b). The 2/- frame plate during its life developed flaws on R12/3, 13/1 and 14/4, all of which were subsequently retouched out. We have the following states available, each in matching plate block of 20;	

- (i) R12/3 and R13/1 in their original **pre-flaw** state (see footnote in the C.P. Catalogue below MFV15b); plus R14/4 with large flaw outside left frame.
A rare block £100.00
- (ii) R12/3 flaw and R13/1 with two flaws – MFV15b(d); R14/4 still
with frame flaw £40.00
- (iii) R12/3, R13/1 and R14/4 all now re-entered – MFV15b(e) £30.00

1138 Inverted Watermarks.

- (i) 1d Scarlet (M2aZ). Mounted mint £3.75
- (ii) 1d Green (M2cZ), unmounted mint £20.00
- (iii) 1½d Chocolate (M4aY), unmounted mint £11.50
- (iv) 9d Brown-Sepia (M12bZ), unmounted mint £17.50
- (v) 1/- Sideways wmk. (M13bZ), unmounted mint £6.50
- (vi) As above. The overprinted Official invert. (M13bZ), mounted mint . £15.00
- (vii) 1/3d Die 1a (M14aZ), unmounted mint £4.00
- (viii) 1/3d Die 1b, sideways wmk. (M14bZ), mounted mint £17.50
- (ix) 2/- sideways wmk. (M15bZ), unmounted mint £6.50
- (x) 3/- (M16aX), unmounted mint £15.00

1139

1906 CHRISTCHURCH EXHIBITION

The complete set, ½d, 1d, 3d and 6d, in **mint blocks of four** (3d and 6d marginal). Each block very lightly hinged at top centre, and apart from one short corner on the ½d block, condition is exceptionally fine. An exquisite set of blocks (Cat. \$ 3100 as singles) £1100.00

HAUSBURG F.F.Q. REPRINTS, 1906

- 1140(a) Complete Set of seven values (1d, 2d plate 1, 2d plate 2, 3d, 4d, 6d, 1/-) all in **matched top marginal blocks of four**. Printed on thin card. A very scarce set £375.00

Note: Of the 2d plate 2, 1000 sheets are recorded as having been printed; of all others, just six sheets each.

- (b) As above. A complete sheet of 240 of the 2d plate 2 (in its final, retouched state, of course). Blocks of four are widely offered at around £20 each – our price for the complete sheet, only £150.00

1960 PICTORIAL 1/- REEL JOINS

- 1141(a) A superb horizontal strip of five, the middle three stamps showing the rare variety "Double Paper, Reel Join" (O12aX). The two reels of paper overlap by approx. 1 7/8" – result, stamp 1 normal, stamp 2 two-thirds printed on overlapped reel, one-third printed on overlapped reel, stamp 3 printed on double paper, stamp 4 one-third printed on double paper, stamp 5 normal. No reinforcement has been used to effect the join. A magnificent piece £157.50
- (b) Strip of three (with left selvage), the central stamp showing another reel-join. In this case, the overlapping is a mere three-sixteenths of an inch, and the join re-inforced, prior to perforating, by bright yellow self-adhesive tape (see this month's Bulletin notes). Not a pretty sight, but an affordable example of a rare and unusual variety £27.50