

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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WE WISH ALL N.Z. BULLETIN READERS
A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS
AND A
PEACEFUL AND PROSPEROUS 1992



N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

The 1906 Exhibition 'Government Life' Facsimiles. The New Zealand Government Life Insurance Department was one of several state organisations which took space at the 1906 Christchurch Exhibition, and for part of its display it produced enlarged facsimiles of the then very recently introduced designs of postage stamps (without 'VR') for the exclusive use of the Department. These enlarged facsimiles, in the colours of the earlier 'VR' designs, exist for six values — ½d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 6d and 1/-. It should be noted, however, that although it had originally been the intention to issue the postage stamps themselves in the earlier colours (dies and plates already having been made for all values), in the event only the 1d and 2d were ever issued thus. Shortly afterwards, and before supplies of any of the other denominations were required, special Life Insurance Dept. stamps were dispensed with, and they did not reappear again until seven years later, in 1913 (in the intervening period, the Life Insurance Dept. used the regular issues overprinted Official, in common with other Government departments). It follows, therefore, that the facsimiles of the ½d, 3d, 6d and 1/- are of stamps which never saw the light of day, for when the Department recommenced using its own stamps in 1913, all were printed in colours differing from the originals. The 1/- facsimile is especially interesting, since this value was absent from the 1913 set, and was therefore never issued at all in the 'without VR' design.

Just nine sets of these attractive facsimiles have to date been recorded, and two of these are incomplete. Of the nine sets, only four (three complete and one part set lacking the 2d value) are in private hands, all the others being in the archives in New Zealand. We have the above mentioned part set available, and examples are offered individually elsewhere in this issue of N.Z. Bulletin (see back page for actual-size illustration of the 1/- value).

The full story surrounding these rare items — or as much of it as has been established — is to be found in the excellent monograph, "A History of Government Life Postage Stamps" by J.W. Brodie, published in 1988 by the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand (in a limited edition of 500 copies).

25c Hauraki Gulf National Park (Type P17, C.P. Catalogue). Mr. W.B. van Beek of The Netherlands has shown us a good colour shift on this stamp. At a casual glance, not too noticeable, but in fact the orange colour is misplaced 4mm to the right, resulting in the yachts printed in this colour having drifted very considerably out of their normal positions.

1991 Autumn Stampex. Somewhat belated, but nonetheless hearty, congratulations to Dr. A.F. Dove (silver-gilt award for his entry of N.Z. King George V definitives); D.M. Churchill (large silver, for N.Z. Railway Stamps); and N.H. Willis (silver, for N.Z. Health Stamps) — all exceptionally high awards for their chosen subjects.

PETER EDMUND COLLINS

We regret to record the passing away, on 10th November last, of Peter Collins, at the age of 67. Readers with longer memories may recall that Peter was on the staff of C.P. Ltd., in Woking for a spell, his name appearing frequently in these columns in the late 1960s—early 1970s. We extend our condolences and sympathy to his family.

NEW ISSUES, REPRINTS AND VARIETIES

(by Warwick Paterson and Marianne Versluys from C.P. Newsletter Monthly, November 1991)

1990 Heritage Set "The Maori" 40c (SH 31a). *Missing Chalky Blue colour. We can report the discovery of two sheets of this variety in Auckland and Christchurch. The colour omission is a spectacular one, involving the complete absence of the stamp value (40c). Although there is other blue colouring in the design, any colour omission which omits the value is of special significance. Of additional note in this case is the fact that this is the first recorded colour omission in New Zealand stamps for a full ten years. Often one hears collectors saying "But there are so many missing colours about these days". In the case of New Zealand stamps, this is not the case. With the implementation of highly accurate electronic checking in modern printing presses, very few missing colours indeed are now reaching the market, and this variety may be the last we see for another ten years. Other copies have been rumoured but there is nothing confirmed. It is known that of the second sheet, all but thirty of the copies were used inadvertently in the mail and have probably been lost. A maximum of 130 unhinged mint copies therefore can be stated to exist.*

1991 Rugby World Cup Issue: *Issued on the 21st August 1991, these four stamps were designed by Allan Mitchell of Wellington, and printed by Leigh Mardon in Melbourne by the lithography process on CPL red phosphor paper. The perforations gauge 14¼ x 14 and the values are 80c (Children's Rugby), \$1 (Women's Rugby), \$1.50 (Senior Rugby), \$1.80 (All Blacks). The miniature sheet contains the \$1.80 value and has a price of \$2.40 (a 60c surcharge, which will be used for the New Zealand Post-sponsored Philatelic Trust).*

Many readers will be aware of the importance of rugby as New Zealand's national sport — and some say religion. The staging of the World Cup in Europe has brought rugby to the fore as a quickly growing international sport.

The Philatelic Trust, which will benefit from the sale of the miniature sheet, is being sponsored by New Zealand Post and is designated for "hobby support". The trust is to help individuals and groups to advance philately (and culture, expressed through philately) by funding exhibitions, educational programmes and the like.

1991 Christmas Issue: This new seven stamp issue appeared on the 18th September 1991. They are printed locally by Southern Colour Print in Dunedin by lithography and the denominations are as follows: 45c (Shepherd); 45c (Kings following Star); 45c (Mary and Jesus); 45c (King bearing gifts). Four 45c stamps make up one complete design when placed in a block of four. 65c (Star); \$ 1 (Crown); \$ 1.50 (Angel). The perforations gauge 13¼ x 13¼ and the paper type is Peterborough paper convertors. The block of four 45c stamps is repeated twenty-five times over each sheet of 100 stamps and the 65c, \$ 1 and \$ 1.50 stamps have been produced separately in sheets of 100 stamps.

5c Spotless Crake — 1 Kiwi reprint: This reprint has appeared with whiter gum (previously toned). Perforations, colour and mesh, and paper, all appear to be unchanged.

45c Rock Wren — 1 Kiwi reprint: A reprint has appeared with one Kiwi in the left selvage opposite horizontal row 9. This time the reprint is on a finer paper, again with horizontal mesh but with more show-through than before.

The above two paper differences are quite "collectable".

\$ 1 Kokako — 4 Kiwi reprint: We have noticed a major shade difference in the bird's plumage in this reprint. In sheets with perforated left selvage, we notice that the grey is much paler than in sheets with unperforated left selvage.

\$ 1 Red Round Kiwi: A one Kiwi reprint has appeared in this issue and on supplies we ordered, the small mark in the base of the "1" reappears at Row 3/1. The Post Office tells us that this flaw occurs on a proportion of sheets as before.

VARIETY: PC17a 70c Paradise Shelduck. We bought one sheet of this issue with a triple impression of the black colour, particularly noticeable in the wording. This is a spectacular variety and is probably caused by a loose adjustment of the offset blanket which carries ink from plate to printed sheet of paper. It is unlikely to be a true "treble" print but more in the nature of a treble impression resulting from slippage of the blanket.

KING GEORGE V RECESS-PRINTED (concluded)

1201	6d (K8a). Superb marginal block in carmine (K8a(2)). 3UH/1LH	£27.50
1202	6d (K8b). Block of four in a bright carmine shade. Superfine (3UH/1LH) ..	£29.50
1203	6d (K8c). Two-perf. block, early print, again in a bright shade. Very fine (2UH/2LH)	£75.00
1204	6d (K8d). Marginal block on 'Pictorial' paper, superb (3UH/1LH)	£32.50
1205(a)	7½d (K9a) Plate block of four (pl. no. 24), with full corner selvage. Mint unhinged	£117.50
	(b) As above. Marginal block of four, perfect mint unhinged	£52.50
	(c) As above. Another block (non-marginal), but in a notably deeper shade — unusual in this value. Finest mint (3UH/1LH)	£42.50
	(d) As above. Unhinged mint block with bottom selvage — proving it to be from an early '14 x 13¼ throughout' sheet	£57.50

1206	7½d (K9b). Marginal block, unhinged and superb	£77.50
1207	7½d (K9c). Two-perf. block, superfine mint (2UH/2LH)	£55.00
1208	8d Indigo-Blue (K10a). Plate block of four (pl. no. 39), full corner selvage. Superb mint unhinged	£117.50
1209(a)	9d (K11a). Marginal block in sage green. Perfect unhinged	£100.00
	(b) As above. Non-marginal block in the delicate pale sage shade (K11a(2)). Finest mint (2UH/2LH)	£62.50
1210	1/- (K12a). Superfine mint block (2UH/2LH) in a lovely deep vermilion shade	£62.50
1211	1/- (K12c). Two-perf. block in orange-vermilion. Condition superb (2UH/2LH)	£110.00

Overprinted 'OFFICIAL'

1212	3d (KO3a). Finest mint block in chocolate brown, with pronounced plate wear (KO4a(Y))	£14.00
1213(a)	3d (KO4b). Block in deep chocolate, early print (no plate wear). Very fine .	£11.75
	(b) As above. Another very fine block, but in chocolate brown, and with clear worn plate characteristics	£14.00
1214	3d (KO4c). Two-perf. block, either shade as listed in C.P. (both show pronounced plate wear). Each block	£40.00
1215	3d (KO4d). Finest mint block on 'Pictorial' paper	£11.75
1216	1/- (KO12b). Fine mint block in vermilion (scarcer in perf. 14 x 14½)	£70.00

SUPERB MISCELLANY

Quality material here !

1217	1d First Sideface. A magnificent used vertical pair of the scarce perf. 10 x 12½ issue (C1b). In this form, absolute proof of a true regular compound (rather than the result of mixed perfs.). Rare !	£97.50
1218	4d First Sideface. Brilliantly fresh mint block of four . Exceptional quality, and pretty as a picture	£525.00
1219	King Edward VII Colour Trials. Set of three — 4d in yellow green, 8d in deep greyish blue, 1/- in bright maroon — all imperf., printed on unsurfaced white card	£57.50
1220	King Edward VII 8d. The 1916 provisional issue, on 'Pictorial' paper (H7e), in unhinged mint block of four . When did you last see such an offer?	£100.00
1221(a)	King George V 6d. Superb unhinged mint copy in carmine lake (K8a5)	£395.00

	(b) As above. The same rare experimental shade, lightly hinged and very fine .	£235.00
1222(a)	Second Pictorial 1d Kiwi. Multiple wmk. booklet pane of six, complete with binding selvage. Finest mint (W5bZ)	£30.00
	(b) As above. Similar pane, but the rare variety Watermark Inverted (W5bY). Mint unhinged, good perms. all round, but a little rusting around staple holes, as is often the case	£135.00
1223	1960 Pictorial 3/- Multicolour. Marginal copy with variety Watermark Inverted (O18bZ). The watermark is frequently difficult to discern on this stamp, but here it is clearly visible. Mint unhinged	£25.00
1224(a)	1906 Christchurch Exhibition. An exquisite set of four, all marginal copies (½d and 3d left selvage, 1d and 6d right selvage, so when arranged as two pairs in value order, beautifully symmetrical). One tiny gum tone on the ½d, otherwise wonderfully fresh, and so lightly hinged it's hardly worth mentioning. A joy to behold	£235.00
	(b) As above. 1981 75th Anniversary miniature sheet featuring facsimiles of four of the seven publicity labels issued in connection with the 1906 Exhibition — the labels are nos. 3, 5, 4 and 6 respectively, although these numbers have been removed in producing the facsimiles. A very pretty miniature sheet	£3.75
1225	1920 Victory 1/-. A rare opportunity to acquire the top value individually in superb unhinged mint condition	£35.00
1226(a)	1935 Silver Jubilee. Complete set of plate blocks (½d x 2, 1d x 4, 6d), all brilliant unhinged mint	£117.50
	(b) As above. The 6d value in superlative used block of four , centrally cancelled by Te Aro c.d.s. of 29 MY 35	£100.00
1227	Health Issues, 1929–34. The first six years of Health stamps, all in selected superfine used — the 1931 Smiling Boys, for example, have matching Wellington registered c.d.s. of 31 OC ? — we cannot vouch for the year, which doesn't appear on the stamps, but it was almost certainly 1931, thus first day of issue. And an unexpected bonus, the 1933 example has the listed R2/1 retouches. The early Healths, finest possible quality	£200.00
1228	Health Miniature Sheets, Used. Fiendishly difficult to find in "no apology required" condition, we have the following available in precisely that state:	
	(i) 1960 pair of sheets	£35.00
	(ii) 1963 pair of sheets	£30.00
	(iii) 1968 pair of sheets	£30.00
1229(a)	1957 Ross Dependency. Complete set in plate blocks of four as listed. 4d has single light selvage hinge, otherwise unmounted and superb	£67.50
	(b) As above , but in printer's imprint blocks of four. Unhinged mint throughout .	£67.50
	(c) As above , but in sheet value blocks of four. 8d corner selvage creasing, and light selvage hinge, others unhinged	£60.00

(Note: If ordered together, the above three sets of blocks, showing the complete range of selvage markings, are available at £175 the twelve blocks.)

- (d) **As above.** Set of two superb used blocks of 4 of the 8d, in extreme shades of ultramarine and blue. Magnificent contrasts £17.50

1906 LIFE INSURANCE DEPT. 'NO VR' FACSIMILES

All designs 73 x 88mm, all printed on glazed paper 136 x 158mm, and all in **exceptionally** fine condition for 85-year-old items of this nature.

1230	½d Mauve	£85.00
1231	1d Deep Blue	£85.00
1232	3d Deep Brown	£85.00
1233	6d Deep Green	£85.00
1234	1/- Carmine Pink	£115.00

EXHIBITION MATERIAL

A selection of interesting N.Z. items (some 'Cinderella' some not) all connected with recent philatelic exhibitions.

- 1235 Zeapex 80.** Colourful miniature sheet commemorating the 1962 New Zealand/Western Samoa Treaty of Friendship and the 125th Anniv. of N.Z. Postage Stamps. Includes Samoan \$ 1 stamp and facsimile of the N.Z. 1/- Chalon Head. Mint unhinged £2.50
- 1236 Palmplex 82.** Souvenir limited edition booklet (numbered). Cream/brown illustrated cover, containing block of four of the 1982 Architecture 25c (featuring the Caccia Birch House, Palmerston North) £10.00
- 1237(a) Tarapex '86.** Miniature sheet of six x 24c stamps produced by the exhibition organisers (but fully valid for postal use). Mint unhinged £7.50
- (b) As above,** but on First Day Cover, with special Tarapex pictorial cancel of 3 APR 1985 £8.75
- (c) As above.** Miniature sheet of six full-colour labels featuring King Edward VIII (no postal validity) £2.50
- 1238 Capex 87.** Four N.Z. items were overprinted with the Capex Logo for this World Philatelic Exhibition held in Canada. These comprised two miniature sheets — the 1987 R.N.Z.A.F. and National Parks — and the \$ 4 and \$ 4.40 booklets of June 1987 (W22a and W22b). We can offer the complete set of all four items — scarce ! £32.50

- 1239(a) 'Royal 100' 88** (National Philatelic Exhibition, Wellington). The R.P.S.N.Z. Centenary Miniature Sheet (SM 367), overprinted with the 'Royal 100' logo. Mint unhinged **£2.50**
- (b) As above.** First day cover, bearing the same miniature sheet (unoverprinted) cancelled and tied by the special 'N.Z. Royal 100' c.d.s. of 13 JAN 1988. Comes complete with an illustrated leaflet detailing the history of the Chalon portrait featured on the miniature sheet **£2.25**
- (c) As above.** Identical F.D.C. and leaflet, but cover personally signed by Maurice Conly and the late Marcel Stanley, the co-designers of the miniature sheet ... **£6.50**
- (d) As above.** Delightful set of four 40c pictorial pre-stamped envelopes, featuring respectively the 1d Map stamp (printed in brown), 3d Second-Sideface (in carmine), 6d K.E.VII Telegraph stamp (in green) and the £8 Long Fiscal (in blue) — **all printed direct from the original dies.** Each envelope accompanied by a printed card giving relevant details. The set, superb unused **£9.50**
- (e) As above.** Similar set, but all envelopes postmarked with the special N.Z. Royal 100 c.d.s. of 29 SEP 1987 **£11.50**
- (f) As above.** F.D.C. bearing the 1988 Centenary of Philately se-tenant pair (S365a/366a) cancelled by the N.Z. Royal 100 c.d.s. of 13 JAN 1988 **£2.00**
- (g) As above.** Same F.D.C., but signed by Allan Mitchell, the stamps' designer .. **£6.50**
- 1240(a) Philexfrance 89.** Set of three unused pictorial N.Z. Post postcards, each bearing the Philexfrance Logo, and featuring respectively Katherine Mansfield (authoress), Rugby, and Constitutional Rights **£3.00**
- (b) As above.** Same set of three, but used at the Exhibition **£4.50**
- 1241 N.Z. 1990.** Very attractive miniature sheet (full colour) featuring Mitre Peak/Milford Sound. Issued by Leigh Mardon as publicity for their printing and perforating work **£1.25**

SCARCE FIRST DAY COVERS

- 1242 1934 'Trans-Tasman' 7d.** This special blue air mail stamp was issued on 17th January 1934 in anticipation of the inaugural N.Z. — Australia official air mail flight the following month. First-flight covers are frequent with dates ranging from 18th January to 17th February, but this first day cover, with the stamp clearly tied by c.d.s. of 17 JA 34, is one of only two we have seen. In very fine condition, too, with all relevant flight markings **£165.00**
- 1243 1967 Govt. Life Insurance Dept. Decimal Provisionals.** The complete set of six (1c on 1d — 10c on 1/-), tied to F.D.C. by the special Introduction of Decimal Currency c.d.s. of Auckland dated 10 JULY 67. Never plentiful, even at the time of issue — now very seldom seen, and very scarce indeed .. **£75.00**
- 1244 1967 Ross Dependency Decimal Currency Set.** Tied to F.D.C. by the special Scott Base c.d.s. of 10 JULY 1967. Another of those that somehow "got away" **£85.00**

