

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN

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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

45c Rock Wren Self-Adhesive. There have been two major new developments in this issue, both apparently unannounced and unpublicised by N.Z. Post.

The first stems from a change of manufacturer. All the early rolls (of both the 40c Brown Kiwi and the 45c) were produced by Sprintpak, an Australian firm which, we understand, already had experience of self-adhesive issues. But a few months ago, new rolls from Leigh Mardon began to appear. These are radically different in numerous respects – in fact, the design of the stamps, and the number of stamps in each roll (100), are just about the only aspects that remain unchanged.

In the Leigh Mardon rolls, the "perforations" are die-cut as before, but a different die has been used, giving a reading of 11 on the perforation gauge (previously 11¼), and neater corners resembling comb perf. characteristics (previously a definite line-perf. appearance). Another more immediately noticeable difference is that the surplus paper surrounding the stamps has been left in place, whereas in the Sprintpak rolls, all of this had been stripped off, exposing the backing paper.

The backing paper itself was blank in the Sprintpaks, but in the Leigh Mardons its upper surface (i.e. the side in contact with the stamps) carries an all-over imprint in black of the 'NZ Post Official Olympic Sponsor' logo, repeated at approximately 11mm intervals. Obviously this is concealed unless the stamps are removed, but it is clearly visible from the back.

The composition and content of the new rolls is perhaps the most fundamental of all the changes. As already mentioned, the number of stamps remains at 100, but there are now seven advertising/advisory labels (previously four), and five of these are of double size, each occupying a space equivalent to two stamps. Thus the overall length of the Leigh Mardon rolls exceeds that of the Sprintpaks by eight "units" (counting one stamp or stamp-size label as one unit). Moreover, the new rolls are made up of eight sections each of 14 units, butt-joined together in a specific order by means of clear adhesive tape – previously there were four sections of 26 units. Starting from the outer end and working towards the centre of a roll, the composition is as follows:

- Section 1 : Twelve stamps followed by double size label advertising 'Courier Post'
- Section 2 : Twelve stamps followed by double size label advertising 'Handirange'
- Section 3 : Twelve stamps followed by double size label advertising 'Easipost'

- Section 4 : Twelve stamps followed by double size label advertising 'Parcel Post'
- Section 5 : Twelve stamps followed by double size label advertising 'Faxlink'
- Section 6 : Fourteen stamps
- Section 7 : One stamp, followed by stamp-size label advising 'Only 25 stamps left', followed by twelve stamps
- Section 8 : Eight stamps, followed by stamp-size label advising 'Only 5 stamps left', followed by five stamps.

The two small size labels have 'perfs.' identical to the stamps; the large size labels take the form of imperf. rectangles with rounded corners.

Each section carries a small identification letter printed in black on the surplus surround paper immediately below the last unit. The outermost section is lettered 'H', and the sequence runs in reverse alphabetical order to 'A' at the end of the innermost section.

The section joins have a distinctly "amateurish" look. The butting of the paper is inconsistent and inaccurate, and the joins are effected by two short individual strips of adhesive tape, one applied **horizontally on the front, and one vertically on the back**. All of this is in stark contrast to the Sprintpak work, which was of highly professional standard. In addition there was evidence of joins at the extreme outer and inner ends of the Sprintpak rolls, indicating (as I suggested in my Sept. 1991 Bulletin note, q.v.) that theirs was a continuous, large scale production process. There are no signs of such joins on the Leigh Mardon rolls, indicating that **at best** they were made up in very small quantities at a time; the nature of the joins strongly suggests to me an infinitely more mind-boggling possibility — that is that sheets as printed were first guillotined into vertical strips (and remember that involves eight different sets of strips, one for each section), **and individual strips were then laboriously taped together by hand, to produce rolls one at a time**. That in turn suggests that these rolls will prove to be a very short-lived 'experimental' issue, and that Leigh Mardon will be forced by economics alone to drastically upgrade their process, or that future supply will revert to Sprintpak.

The box dispenser in which the rolls are issued (at a premium of \$2 over the total face value of the stamps it contains) also shows a number of differences, the most notable being (i) the reproduction of the stamp is now defaced by a diagonal black line; (ii) the NZ Post logo is altered to include the words 'NEW ZEALAND'; and (iii) Leigh Mardon's own logo is added (previous dispensers gave no indication of the printer). A further interesting feature of the dispensers is a number printed on one of the flaps, which may or may not have any philatelic significance. In the Leigh Mardon issue, we have seen boxes numbered (in red) from 1 to 25, with only a very few gaps. In the Sprintpak 45c, the number is black, and we have noted only a few different, the highest being 14. The Sprintpak 40c boxes we have seen were unnumbered.

The second development, mentioned at the start of this note, is the appearance of the Sprintpak 45c in **sheet form**. Apparently a supply of sheets was made to NZ Post for internal use in the servicing of official first day covers. The surplus from this supply, after all F.D.C. requirements had been met, was made available for sale at Philatelic Bureaux in N.Z. but, as far as we are aware, no distribution was made to standing order clients of NZ Post. Whether or not this was due to insufficient quantities being available, or other reasons, is unknown. The few sheets we and our Auckland colleagues have seen have all been identical, comprising 200 stamps in 25 horizontal rows of 8, with a row of 'POST Good value' labels below the final row of stamps. The surplus paper margins/gutters had **not** been removed, and as a result a number of printer's markings are evident, of which there was no trace in the issued rolls. These are in the form of extensive guide lines at various points round the outer selvages on all sides, and a series of small crosses (twelve in all) in the vertical gutters between columns 2 and 3, and 6 and 7. All of these markings are in black, and there are no other informative markings such as plate numbers, imprint sheet value or colour codes. The mysterious repeating 'extra claw' flaw, which has already been reported, appears in the sheets seen on R7/6, 16/6 and 25/6.

NEW ISSUES AND VARIETIES
(from C.P. Newsletter Monthly, March 1992)

Red \$ 4.50 Booklet Update: We recently recorded details of the \$ 4.50 red-covered booklets. In response of that article, we have had considerable feed-back from readers and our English branch reporting new observations regarding these booklets. To all those who wrote in, thank you. (Readers should refer to Feb. 1992 Bulletin (p. 2) for a fuller description of the following booklet types.)

To date we have seen copies of format: (a) hang-sell booklets with stamps attached by (1) perforated bottom selvedge, and (2) imperforate top selvedge. We have also seen format (b) non-hanging booklets with stamps attached by (1) perforated top selvedge and (2) perforated bottom selvedge. It is logical to expect equal numbers of each selvedge type in both (a) and (b) booklets.

One of our correspondents was advised by the Wanganui Philatelic Bureau that they (Bureau) believed the original print of the 45c Rock Wren stamps was used to produce the red booklets. However, we would question this, as the original print had selvedge markings at top and bottom, and format (b) booklet strips seen to date show no markings in either top or bottom selvedges.

Enter a new element — “zebra stripes” on the front of both format (a) and (b) booklets. Our English branch made some very intriguing observations of these barcode-like markings. In format (a) booklets marking patterns can be separated into three distinct types. The same three sorts are also seen in the format (b) booklets. In strips of five joined format (b) booklets that we have seen, there is a consistent arrangement of these stripe patterns. The middle three booklets all show exactly the same pattern while the left booklet shows a different pattern and the right one shows another different pattern (see illus. below).



Left book in strip



Right book in strip



3 centre books in strip

Although all format (a) hang-sell booklets have been guillotined apart, it seems reasonable to assume that the same arrangement of stripe patterns may have existed in the pre-guillotined state of these booklets also.

Another new dimension has been introduced to both types of these red booklets — gumspots. From mid-November we started receiving reports that some booklets were available glued closed with two small spots of gum. It seems that these gumspot booklets have been gradually phased in at all outlets, replacing the ungummed ones, and the ungummed ones are now virtually unobtainable in our experience. The gumspots are a security feature hopefully to prevent theft of the booklet contents at points of sale. In gumspot booklets we have seen so far, the two spots of gum are placed on the selvedge of the stamp pane, about 3mm from the stamps and usually about 1cm in from either side of the pane. In all respects, apart from the gumspots, these booklets are the same as the ‘ungummed’ type.

1981 Health Stamps, 20c + 2c Children Fishing: We know of two sheets with a perforation pin missing in the single-comb head, resulting in an unperforated space at the intersection of horizontal and vertical perf. rows in one vertical row of perforations. As only double, vertical columns were seen by us, we do not know which vertical row of perforations was affected. As a “missing pin” variety it is probably the most spectacular possible.

C.P. LOOKS BACK
by Campbell Paterson

I have spoken of my years in Melbourne: it was during those years that my collecting took on a semblance of order. Having no clear ideas of specializing in any particular group, I decided to concentrate on "British Empire" and as a start I bought the S.G. Catalogue (of which I have already spoken) and I subscribed to Stanley Gibbons' New Issue Service. I likewise subscribed to Gibbons Stamp Monthly. Being still very short on funds for anything philatelic, the New Issues kept me busy enough, though in those days (1924/26) the flood of new issues had not begun.

As an aside, the fact was that new Commemoratives were then still issued only to celebrate really important events — this must be unbelievable to today's collectors. By, say 1924, just mentioning a few of the "bigger" countries of the Empire, Canada had had in all its history since 1851 only four sets genuinely Commemorative! Australia had had none; Great Britain, one; New Zealand, four. Nowadays ten or more sets each year is not out of the way.

So I was hardly inundated with new issues — but the flood was to come. With that streak of luck, or maybe coincidence, which seems to have followed my years in stamps — I was, all unknowingly, just getting set to receive the first of the flood when it came. Being a new thing in stamps, these were largely ignored by the public but sent to me and others already "signed on".

The "first of the flood" included Falkland Islands 1933; Sierra Leone 1933; Monserrat 1932; St. Kitts 1923.

These are just a few and I mention them only because they remain in my memory. A totting-up of their combined S.G. Catalogue value today is quite astonishing. The St. Kitts set, one of the earliest, caused quite a furore inasmuch as it was deliberately issued (so we understood at the time) to raise money for a hospital rather than for its Commemorative function. This so raised the ire of Stanley Gibbons Ltd. of London, that they made an issue of it and actually threatened to ignore it (Catalogue-wise) as not being issued essentially for postal purposes!

(To be continued)

401

1906 CHRISTCHURCH EXHIBITION

The set of four, unhinged mint, fresh true colours, and centring as perfect as one could ever hope for. An exceptional set £295.00

1913 AUCKLAND EXHIBITION

402(a)	A rare opportunity to acquire the 6d value on its own, unhinged mint, brilliantly centred, and full perfs. Perfection — a stamp for the connoisseur, and we make no apology for the price	£285.00
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(b) We have a 1d of the same issue in the same perfect condition £27.50

(c) Lastly, a 3d, again unhinged, but with a horizontal crease and off-centre to the left. The former is not obtrusive, the latter most certainly is, but at the price an unrepeatable chance to fill an otherwise costly gap (now Cat. \$ 570) £15.00

1940 CENTENNIAL ISSUE

403(a)	Set of 14, ½d – 1/- (incl. 10d on 1½d), fine mint, hinged	£10.50
(b)	As above, but in superb unhinged mint blocks of four, mostly marginal. S.G. Cat. £200	£117.50
404(a)	Officials. Complete set of 11 (the 5d, 7d and 10d on 1½d do not exist with Official overprint). Very fine, lightly hinged mint	£35.00
(b)	As above. Plate blocks of the Officials are elusive nowadays, but we can offer a selection of finest mint marginal pairs, all showing the complete printer's imprint and plate number in the bottom selvage, at very considerable saving on Catalogue prices:	
(i)	½d Plate 1L or 1T, each	£2.25
(ii)	1d Plate A1 or A2, each	£3.50
(iii)	1½d Plate A1	£3.00
(iv)	2d Plate B1	£6.00
(v)	2½d Plate A1	£4.50
(vi)	3d Plate A1 or B1 or B2, each	£11.50
(vii)	8d Plate A1	£32.50
(viii)	9d Plate A1	£20.00

(c)	As above. A complete set of the 'Joined ff' varieties (½d, 1d, 2d, 2½d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 8d), each in the classic form of marginal pair with a normal – the 2½d being in a marginal strip of three with two normals, since the variety occurred on a different position in the sheet on this value. Seven pairs and a strip, brilliant unhinged mint throughout	£275.00
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405

KING EDWARD VIII (YES, EIGHTH !)

No N.Z. stamps were issued bearing this King's portrait during his brief reign in 1936. However, a total of four later items **do** exist portraying K.E. VIII – the 1940 Centennial 1½d ordinary and Official, and 10d on 1½d, and the 1990 miniature sheet commemorating the 150th anniversary of postage stamps. We can offer the "King Edward VIII" collection complete **mint and used** (six stamps and two miniature sheets) – an inexpensive and most unusual album page in the making

£9.25

K.G.V. 1d FIELD MARSHAL

406(a)	Perf. 14 x 15, normal Cowan Paper (K15b). In mint condition, this is a consistently elusive stamp – far more so than its modest Catalogue rating suggests. Here offered in two excellent shades of rose carmine and deep rose-carmine, unhinged and superb. The pair of shades	£4.25
(b)	As above. Magnificent unhinged mint block of four in the deep shade	£12.50
(c)	As above. Another unhinged block, in the paler rose-carmine. Immaculate facial appearance, but a little gum-toning (almost negligible) allows	£5.00

- 407(a)** Perf. 14 x 15, reversed wmk. Cowan Paper (K15c). This issue exists in a wide range of striking shades, most being quite unlike anything found in any other 1d Field Marshal issue. We can offer the choice of rose-carmine (the 'normal' shade), deep bright carmine or deep claret, all superb unhinged mint, and all at the same price of, each £10.00
- (b)** As above. Exactly the same choice of shades, but in pristine unhinged mint blocks of four. Each block (minimum Cat. \$ 140) £32.50
- (c)** As above. Again the choice of three shades, again in unhinged blocks, equally superb appearance, but some toning affecting the gum only. Each block £12.50

USED MINIATURE SHEETS

Although all of the following are of relatively recent vintage, stocks of most are extremely limited. All have circular date stamp cancellations.

- 423** 1974 N.Z. Day (SM182-6, S.G. MS1046) £2.00
- 424** 1977 Silver Jubilee (SM220-4, S.G. MS1137) £2.00
- 425** 1980 Zeapex '80 (SM260-2, S.G. MS1216) £4.00
- 426** 1984 Antarctic Research (SM300-3, S.G. MS1331) £3.00
- 427** 1984 Military History, Army (SM313-6, S.G. MS1356) £3.00
- 428** 1985 Royal N.Z. Navy (SM326-9, S.G. MS1383) £3.50
- 429(a)** 1986 Scenic, Bays (SSM60, S.G. MS1399) £2.50
- (b)** As above. Two used miniature sheets, shades of the sand and green trees at left. Nice £7.00
- 430** 1987 R.N.Z.A.F. (SM357-360, S.G. MS1427) £3.50
- 431** 1987 Scenic, Parks (SSM64, S.G. MS1432) £2.25
- 432** 1988 Royal P.S. (SM367, S.G. MS1450) £1.25
- 433** 1988 Scenic, Tracks (SSM68, S.G. MS1473) £2.50
- 434** 1989 Scenic, Trees (SSM76, S.G. MS1515) £2.50
- 435** 1990 Commonwealth Games (SM387/8 x 2, S.G. MS1538), two different mini sheets £3.00
- 436** 1990 Treaty of Waitangi (SM395/6, S.G. MS1540) £1.25
- 437** 1990 N.Z. Orchids (SM398-402, S.G. MS1547) £4.50
- 438** 1990 Scenic, Anniversaries (SSM80, S.G. MS1558) £3.00
- 439** 1990 150th Anniv. of N.Z. Stamps (SM403-8, S.G. MS1568) £3.00
- 440** 1991 Rugby World Cup (\$ 2.40 mini sheet) £3.00
- 441** 1991 Phila Nippon '91, two different miniature sheets, each with the Phila Nippon '91 logo £5.00

NEW ZEALAND BOOKLETS, 1977 TO DATE

- 442** \$ 1 Booklet (C.P. W11a, S.G. B31) stamps attached by left-hand or right-hand selvages, each £6.00
- 443** 80c Booklet (W12a, S.G. B30), LH or RH selvedge, each £4.00
- 444(a)** \$ 1 Booklet, cover "Type A" (W13aZ, S.G. B32), LH selvedge £9.00
- (b)** As above, but stamps attached by right-hand selvedge (even when current this booklet proved difficult to obtain) £13.50

445(a)	\$ 1.20 Booklet (W14a, S.G. B33), LH or RH selvedge, each	£6.00
(b)	As above. LH selvedge booklet, with + marking (this appeared once in every five booklets issued)	£7.50
446	\$ 1.40 Booklet (W15a, S.G. B34), RH selvedge	£6.00
447	\$ 1.54 Booklet (W15b, S.G. B35), LH or RH selvedge, each	£6.00
448	\$ 2 Booklet (W16a, S.G. B36), LH selvedge	£6.00
449	\$ 2.20 Booklet (W16b, S.G. B37), LH or RH selvedge, each	£6.00
450	\$ 2.40 Booklet (W17a, S.G. B38A), PA35a stamps (24c Map, perf. 12½ x 12½), LH or RH selvedge, each	£6.00
451	\$ 2.64 Booklet (W17b, S.G. B39A), PA35a stamps, RH selvedge	£6.00
452	\$ 2.40 Booklet (W18a, S.G. B38B), PA35b stamps (24c Map, perf. 14¼ x 14), RH selvedge	£6.00
453	\$ 2.64 Booklet (W18b, S.G. B39B), PA35b stamps, LH or RH selvedge, each ..	£6.00
454	\$ 2.50 Booklet (W19a, S.G. B40), LH or RH selvedge, each	£6.00
455	\$ 2.75 Booklet (W19b, S.G. B41), LH or RH selvedge, each	£6.00
456	\$ 3 Booklet (W20a, S.G. B42), stamps attached by top selvedge	£8.50
457	\$ 3.30 Booklet (W20b, S.G. B43) stamps attached by top selvedge, with sheet value marking in selvedge	£8.50
458	\$ 4 Booklet (W21a, S.G. B44) stamps attached by plain, or sheet value, top selvedge, each	£8.50
459	\$ 4.40 Booklet (W21b, S.G. B45), plain or sheet value top selvedge, each ...	£8.50
460	\$ 4 Booklet, 2nd type (W22a, S.G. B44a), plain or sheet value top selvedge, each	£8.50
461	\$ 4.40 Booklet, 2nd type (W22b, S.G. B45a), plain or sheet value top selvedge each	£8.50
462	\$ 4 Booklet, 3rd type (W23a, S.G. B46), plain or sheet value top selvedge, each	£8.50
463	\$ 4.40 Booklet, 3rd type (W23b, S.G. B47), plain or sheet value top selvedge, each	£20.00
464(a)	\$ 2 Booklet (W24a, S.G. B48). Personal Message stamps	£4.00
(b)	As above. These booklets were available from N.Z. Post in se-tenant strips of five booklets as here offered	£18.75

(c)	As above. Single booklet, cover overprinted "WORLD STAMP EXPO '89" plus details	£6.00
465(a)	\$ 7 Booklet (W25a, S.G. B49) plain LH or RH selvedge	£8.50
(b)	As above. LH selvedge booklet with colour-code and 1-kiwi mark (W25aZ) ..	£10.50
466(a)	\$ 3.50 1988 Christmas Booklet (W26a, S.G. B50) plain top or bottom selvedge, each	£4.00
(b)	As above. Se-tenant pair of booklets, showing the complete printers imprint in the bottom selvedge (W26aZ)	£10.00
467	\$ 6 Booklet (W27a, S.G. B51), \$ 1 round green Kiwi stamps	£7.50
468(a)	\$ 4 Mount Cook Booklet (W28a, S.G. B52), plain LH or RH selvedge, each ..	£4.50
(b)	As above. Booklet with colour-code dots in LH selvedge	£7.50
(c)	As above. Similar colour-code booklet, with 2 or 3 or 5 or 6-kiwi marks, each .	£9.00
(d)	As above. LH selvedge booklet, cover overprinted with "Stamp World London '90" logo	£6.00
469	\$ 3.50 1989 Christmas Booklet (W29a, S.G. B53), plain top or bottom selvedge, each	£4.00
470(a)	\$ 4 Black "Hang-Sell" Booklet (W31a), plain LH or RH selvedge, each	£4.50
(b)	As above. Colour-code booklet with 6 or 7-kiwi marks, each	£7.50
(c)	As above. Se-tenant pair of booklets with 8-kiwi marks	£12.50
471(a)	\$ 2 'Happy Birthday' and \$ 2 'Thinking of You' Booklets — these definitive booklets only had a life of some 6 weeks. The two booklets	£4.50
(b)	As above. Two se-tenant strips, each of five booklets	£25.00
472(a)	\$ 2.25 Happy Birthday and \$ 2.25 Thinking of You Booklets , one of each	£3.50
(b)	As above. Two se-tenant strips, each of five booklets	£17.50
473(a)	\$ 4.50 Blue "Hang-Sell" Booklet , 45c Rock Wren stamps, plain LH selvedge ..	£4.50
(b)	As above. "Colour-code" dot booklet	£5.00
(c)	As above. Se-tenant strip of five booklets	£25.00
474(a)	\$ 4.50 Red Booklets , ordinary and hang-sell covers, the two booklets	£7.00
(b)	As above. This month's notes feature the "zebra-bar" differences found in these booklets. This set of six (three hang-sell and three ordinary) show all the illustrated variations	£22.50