

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton



The design illustrated here may be familiar enough. It is that of the standard free frank of the N.Z. Government Printing and Stationery Department, which was imprinted on numerous items of stationery (envelopes, postcards, labels) used by that Department from about 1886 onwards.

But it is also the design of what must be a strong contender for the title of New Zealand's least Known Adhesive Stamp, for in 1887 adhesives in this design were produced for use on Department mail. These were printed in black on a distinctive blue wove unwatermarked paper, in sheets of unknown size, and were perforated 12½. (They also, incidentally, have strong claims to being N.Z.'s first Official stamps, predating by several years the next earliest candidates, the Government Life Insurance Dept. issues of 1891).

While examples of the impressed frank are relatively common, the adhesive version is a real rarity. I doubt whether one in a thousand collectors will ever have seen an example, far less own one — even those with a particular interest in 'back-of-the-book' material. Certainly, over the past quarter of a century or so, I myself haven't handled more than two or three isolated copies — even that might be an exaggeration, for it could well be that the same copy passed through my hands more than once! So it came as something of a surprise, albeit a very pleasant one, to acquire one the other day, **used on cover**.

Although the stamp is not actually tied to the cover by the postmark — a Wellington squared circle datestamp of 7th August 1891 — this is an exceptional case where tying is not a vital factor. The following other elements combine to put its bona fides beyond reasonable doubt:

- (1) The envelope is an 'On Public Service Only' one, with Printing and Stationery Department imprint in the bottom left corner.
- (2) The envelope bears no other frank of any kind.
- (3) Usage is obviously genuinely 'commercial official', the cover being addressed to The Agent-General for New Zealand in London (the predecessor of the present day High Commissioner).
- (4) The date of use is acceptably contemporary.

All in all, a delightful find (offered as lot 803 in this Bulletin).

One other N.Z. Government Department — the Public Trust Office — used an adhesive frank. Issued in 1891, and printed black on white wove unwatermarked paper, in sheetlets of four, perf. 12½, this too was of identical design to the frank already available for imprinting that Department's stationery. By a long coincidence, we can also offer an example of this item this month although not, alas, on cover!

Footnote: Since writing the above notes, I have discussed the Printing and Stationery Dept. cover with Mr. Allan Berry, who (I'm sure he would readily admit!) knows very much more about the whole subject of N.Z. free franks than I. Allan tells me that he knows of just two other covers bearing the blue adhesive frank, both similarly addressed and contemporary with ours. One of these is in his own collection, the other was recently on offer in this country at a price very well into four figures. That tempts me to increase our asking price — but I'll resist the temptation!

From C.P. Newsletter Monthly,

An Appeal from Dr. K.J. McNaught. Recently a two-perf. pair of 5d Geo. V stamps was submitted to the Expert Committee of the R.P.S.N.Z. for an opinion whether it was C.P. K7c(2) "blue". The colour of this pair was sufficiently different from the normal ultramarine for consideration, though it was not the same as the blue of early printings. It was referred to Dr. Graeme White who pronounced the colour as just a variant of ultramarine. Because of this report, the item failed to receive a certificate. However, I am not fully satisfied with this decision, because it leaves the question unanswered, just what is the correct colour of K7c(2) ?

Dr. White, in his article on the 5d value, reported in the November 1990 issue of C.P. Newsletter, clearly makes the point on page 5 that stamps perf. 14 x 14½ (and this will include potential two-perf. pairs) appear in three non-overlapping periods of issue, blue, 1922–23, ultramarine, 1930–31, and steel blue, 1934. There is no record in R.P.S.N.Z. Volumes of The Postage Stamps of New Zealand of 5d two-perf. pairs in 1922–23 or in 1934, but only in ultramarine 1930–31.

Three possibilities have to be considered:

- (1) A few sheets of 5d stamps printed in blue might have been perforated 14 x 14½ in the top five rows and 14 x 13½ in the bottom five rows, at the same time as the rare 4d two-perf. stamps in 1927. For example, a few imperforate sheets printed in blue could have been returned at this time by a Postmaster via the Custodian of Stamps to the Stamp Printer for perforating.
- (2) A few sheets of the last printing of 5d stamps in blue might have been included with a printing of the 5d in ultramarine and perforated about 1930 in the same way as in (1) above.
- (3) The Graeme White colour designation of the C.P. K7c(2) "blue" might be bluish ultramarine, as in the stamp submitted for an opinion.

Explanation (3) seems unlikely in view of the footnote below K7b in the C.P. Catalogue "one (only) two-perf. pair in a true "blue" has been recorded".

There is one way and one only to resolve this problem and that is to match the colour of the pair which was the basis for the C.P. listing against reference blue and ultramarine stamps. (Note: there are likely to be at least 10 such pairs in existence unless the sheet had already been broken up when the variety was noted).

I appeal to the present owner of the "blue" pair to contact me through Warwick Paterson. Precise information is needed, not only for expertising work, but also for permanent recording in the projected Volume VIII of The Postage Stamps of New Zealand.

(Ed. Note: In the February 1979 issue of N.Z. Bulletin, I reported a 5d two-perf. **block of four** in blue. Whether this block was the basis of the C.P. Catalogue listing, I cannot say with certainty, but I think it was. In the same note, I put forward evidence and reasons suggesting that Dr. McNaught's possibility no. 1 above was a likely explanation for the previously unrecorded 'blue two-perf.')

If any Bulletin reader has (or believes he has) a 5d two-perf. pair or block in a **blue** shade, he can of course contact Dr. McNaught through our Woking office.)

801

1899 POSTAGE DUES – PRESENTATION SET

Set of 11, one of each value ½d – 2/-, each neatly cancelled in the bottom right corner by segment of c.d.s. showing the letters N.Z. (presentation set cancellation type P1, N.Z. Handbook, Vol. 4, page 406). Although the ½d, 1d and 2d are represented by just one copy of each, this is almost certainly a complete presentation set, as such sets were usually of a 'simplified' nature, ignoring minor differences. All but two stamps (1d and 2d) have full gum. The rare presentation set, very fine £495.00

802

VICTORIA LAND

Set of two, ½d and 1d (RD2a/3a), supplied for the use of the 1910–13 Scott Expedition to Antarctica. Superb unhinged mint, and rare thus. S.G. Cat. £545 as hinged, C.P. \$ 1630 £500.00

N.Z. GOV'T DEPT. ADHESIVE FREE FRANKS

803

Printing and Stationery Dept. The cover discussed in this month's Notes (q.v.). Central filing fold, and a little grubby, but no more than one would expect in a commercial cover over a century old. Rare! £295.00

804

Public Trust Office. Superb mint example of the 1891 "On Public Trust Office Business" adhesive free frank. Very minor dulling of gum due to slight adhesions, otherwise remarkably fine £35.00

PENNY UNIVERSAL

Continuing the listing begun last month.

805(a) **Cowan Wmk'd Paper, First Local Plates, Perf. 14 (G5a).** Set of two mint, one early print (unworn), one later print (worn). Striking contrasts £6.50

(b) **As above.** Similar set of two, but in unhinged mint blocks of four £35.00

806(a) **Cowan Wmk'd Paper, First Local Plates, Perf. 14 x 11 (G5d).** Superfine mint copy. Cat. \$ 200, special offer at £40.00

(b) **As above.** Fine commercially used copy £37.50

807(a)	Cowan Wmk'd Paper, First Local Plates, Mixed Perfs. (G5e). Superb mint example, with official patching	£11.50
(b)	As above. Another copy, equally fine, but without patching	£7.50
(c)	As above. Good used copy	£7.50
(d)	As above. Remarkable used block of four , with patching still in position	£45.00
808(a)	Reserve Plate Perf. 14 (G6a). Unhinged mint copy	£35.00
(b)	As above. Set of two, showing extreme shades of deep carmine and carmine-pink. Superb contrasts. Mint unhinged	£72.50
(c)	As above. Similar set of two glorious shades, but finest used	£9.50
809(a)	Booklet Plate (G7a). Single copy, mint unhinged	£35.00
(b)	As above, but very fine, lightly hinged	£20.00
(c)	As above. Horizontal pair, imperf. at top and sides. Finest mint	£42.50
(d)	As above. Finest used copy	£7.50
(e)	As above. Brilliant set of seven used examples, specially selected to show all the possible perf. variations to be found in 'Booklet' stamps: (i) perf. all round; (ii) imperf. at top and left; (iii) imperf. at top and right; (iv) imperf. at left; (v) imperf. at right; (vi) imperf. at bottom and left; (vii) imperf. at bottom and right. Attractive, and most unusual	£57.50
810(a)	Dot Plates, Perf. 14 (G8a). Two superb mint copies, matching lot 805(a) above (G5 and G8 are the only two issues where such extreme plate wear occurs)	£10.00
(b)	As above. Set of five beautiful blocks of four, showing varying states of plate wear and a range of striking shades. One or two heavy mounts, but appearance superb	£67.50
(c)	As above. Unhinged mint copy, with full top right corner selvage showing sheet serial number	£7.50
811	Dot Plates, Perf. 11 x 14 (G8b). Fair mint example of a scarce stamp. Not top grade, but good-looking, and an excellent space filler at	£27.50
812(a)	Dot Plates, Mixed Perfs. (G8d). Superb copy with official patching. Unhinged mint , and very elusive thus	£23.50
(b)	As above, previously hinged, but very fine	£12.00
(c)	As above. Superfine mint copy, without patching	£7.50
(d)	As above. Finest mint block of four (with full bottom selvage) showing a most unusual case of a correcting procedure that went badly wrong. The	

	lowermost row of perf. 14 is misplaced low, but the line of perf. 11, intended to rectify matters, is itself misplaced far lower than the original perfs! A real conversation piece!	£47.50
(e)	As above. Very fine used copy with mixed perfs.	£12.50
813(a)	Waterlow Trial Plates, Perf. 14 (G9a). Unhinged mint copy	£23.50
(b)	As above. Set of two mint, one each from plates W1 and W2. Both have a peculiar and distinctive curry-coloured gum, and both are in deep rich aniline shades	£42.50
(c)	As above. Unhinged mint copy (from pl. W1) with full top right corner selvage showing sheet serial number	£25.00
814	Waterlow Trial Plates, Mixed Perfs. (G9e). Very fine mint copy, perf. 14 x 14 x 11 x 14 (no patching). Rare. Cat. \$ 1250, offered at just	£195.00
815(a)	Royle Plates, Perf. 14 (G10a). Unhinged mint copy	£3.50
(b)	As above. Set of four in the listed shades of rose-carmine, blood-red, bright rose-carmine and aniline carmine. Unhinged mint	£40.00
(c)	As above. Unhinged mint block of four in blood-red, the richest and most intense of all 1d Universal shades	£60.00
816	Royle Plates, Perf. 11 (G10b). Mint copy, lightly hinged and very fine. Cat. \$ 200 (S.G. £150), priced this month only at an incredible	£45.00
817(a)	Royle Plates, Perf. 14 x 11 (G10c). Superfine mint example, beautifully centred , and rare thus	£80.00
(b)	As above. Equally fine copy, but off-centre to the right	£30.00
818	Royle Plates, Perf. 11 x 14 (G10d). Very lightly hinged, well-centred, fresh mint copy	£70.00
819(a)	Royle Plates, Comb Perf. 14 x 14½ (G10f). When well-centred, probably the most aesthetically pleasing issue of 1d Universals. This copy shows precisely what we mean	£45.00
(b)	As above. All too frequently, the registration of the perforations left a lot to be desired. This block of four, fine and fresh though it is, also shows precisely what we mean!	£42.50
820(a)	Surface Print (G11a). Single copy, unhinged mint	£35.00
(b)	As above, but unhinged mint block of four	£135.00

KING GEORGE V RECESS – OFFICIALS

821(a)	3d Chocolate (KO4a–c). Four mint stamps, comprising perf. 14 x 13½ and 14 x 14½ singles, plus a se-tenant two-perf. pair	£20.00
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(b)	As above. A similar set of four, but in this case all items show pronounced plate wear (KO4aY, KO4bZ, KO4cZ)	£27.50
(c)	As above. Perf. 14 x 13½ (KO4a), fine mint block of four	£10.50
(d)	As above. Mint copy with inverted watermark (KO4aX)	£5.00
(e)	As above. The same inverted watermark variety, but in fine mint block of four ..	£17.50
(f)	As above. Perf. 14 x 14½ (KO4b), mint block of four	£10.50
(g)	As above. The two Catalogued shades, mint (KO4b)	£3.25
(h)	As above. Mint single, perf. 14 x 14½ with inverted watermark (KO4bY)	£5.00
(i)	As above. Marginal block of four with inverted watermark, mint unhinged ..	£25.00
822(a)	3d Pictorial Paper (KO4d). Mint block of four	£11.50
(b)	As above. Two single stamps, watermarked and unwatermarked (KO4dZ) respectively	£17.50
(c)	As above. Unhinged mint corner plate block of four, with small part of plate number 19 showing	£67.50
823(a)	6d Carmine (KO8a-c). Set of four stamps matching lot 821(a) above	£40.00
(b)	As above. Three mint shades of carmine, all perf. 14 x 13½ (KO8a)	£10.00
(c)	As above. Mint marginal pair, plate number 37 in selvedge — facially brilliant, but mark on back allows	£15.00
(d)	As above. Two mint perf. 14 x 14½ (KO8b), fine shades	£8.50

OFFER OF THE MONTH

824	8d Chocolate (KO10d). The key value of all K.G.V Officials, superb unmounted mint copy (Cat. \$ 275). Offered at	£60.00
825	9d Sage-green (KO11a). Another good stamp, again unhinged mint	£40.00
826(a)	1/- Vermilion (KO12a-c). Mint set of four, matching lot 821(a) above	£50.00
(b)	As above. Two perf. 14 x 13½ (KO12a) stamps, vermilion and orange vermilion shades	£17.50
(c)	As above. Two mint copies, perf. 14 x 14½ (KO12b), showing the extreme shades of vermilion and salmon. Magnificent	£25.00
(d)	As above. Two-perfs, se-tenant block of four (KO12c), fine mint	£70.00

SECOND PICTORIAL 3/- MT. EGMONT

A specialised listing of mint plate-variety blocks, all from the final printings of plate 1, on coarse paper, perf. 14¼ x 13½ (L14g). All varieties are recorded in Vol. 2 of The N.Z. Handbook.

827(a)	R1/5, 1/6 , in top right corner block of four, hinged in selvedge only	£25.00
(b)	R3/5, 3/6 (LV14n) , in marginal block of four, unmounted	£35.00
(c)	R4/4, 5/3, 5/4 , in unmounted block of four	£30.00
(d)	R5/3, 5/4, 6/3, 6/4 , in similar unhinged block of four	£30.00
(e)	R5/6, 6/6 (LV14m) in marginal block of four, unmounted	£47.50
(f)	R6/2, R7/1 (LV14d) in marginal block of four, unmounted	£35.00
(g)	R9/4 (LV14L), R9/5, 10/4, 10/5 , in bottom marginal block of four, unhinged .	£50.00

RECENT ISSUES

1992 Olympic Games (issued 13/5/92), 45c, 80c, \$ 1, \$ 1.50.

Mint set of four stamps	£2.10
Complete set of four imprint blocks, 8 stamps each (included are the normal imprint details, plus barcode below R10/4)	£18.75
Official illustrated F.D.C. (Wanganui pmk.)	£2.35

N.B. : The above offered "Large-sheet" stamps are **perf. 13½**. The following miniature sheet stamps are **perf. 14 x 14¼**.

Miniature sheet (all four stamps se-tenant), mint	£2.10
Mini Sheet on Official illustrated F.D.C. (Wanganui pmk.)	£2.35

1992 World Columbian Expo '92. Two miniature sheets overprinted with the Chicago Exhibition's Official Logo. (The first miniature sheet is the above-offered 'Olympics' one; the second is a special sheetlet commemorating Christopher Columbus, and featuring the \$ 1 and \$ 1.50 stamps from the N.Z. Navigators set of earlier this year, **but in a different perf.** 14 x 14¼ as opposed to 13 x 14 originally).

Two overprinted Miniature Sheets, mint	£4.00
Christopher Columbus sheetlet only, on F.D.C.	£2.50

Note: The Columbus miniature sheets sold out at Philatelic Bureaux on the day of issue.

1992 Scenic, Glaciers (issued 12/6/92), 45c, 50c, 80c, \$ 1, \$ 1.50, \$ 1.80.

Mint set of six stamps	£3.25
Complete set of six imprint blocks of 8 (includes imprint details, and barcode under R10/4)	£29.25
Official illustrated F.D.C. (Wanganui pmk.)	£3.50
Presentation Pack, featuring much background info. on these 'Rivers of Ice'. Post paid	£6.50

N.Z. MINIATURE SHEETS, UNHINGED MINT – A COMPLETE LISTING

(a) Health Issues

1957 Wmk. Sideways (2)	£9.75	1974 (1)	£15.00
1957 Wmk. upright (2)	£17.50	1975 (1)	£11.25
1958 (2)	£11.25	1976 (1)	£4.75
1959 (2)	£9.75	1977 (1)	£7.50
1960 (2)	£22.50	1978 (1)	£4.75
1961 (2)	£15.00	1979 (1)	£3.75
1962 (2)	£15.00	1980 (1)	£1.95
1963 (2)	£13.00	1981 (1)	£1.95
1964 (2)	£28.00	1982 (1)	£2.25
1965 (2)	£17.50	1983 (1)	£2.25
1966 (2)	£15.00	1984 (1)	£2.15
1967 (2)	£11.25	1985 (1)	£2.25
1968 (2)	£11.25	1986 (1)	£2.25
1969 (2)	£13.50	1987 (1)	£3.00
1970 (2)	£11.25	1988 (1)	£2.25
1971 (2)	£11.25	1989 (1)	£2.50
1972 (2)	£11.25	1990 (1)	£2.15
1973 (2)	£13.50	1991 (1)	£2.00

Complete set of Health Miniature Sheets as listed (54 sheets) £300.00

(b) Other Issues.

1969 Capt. Cook Bicentenary (1)	£18.00
1974 N.Z. Day (1)	95p
1977 Silver Jubilee (1)	75p
1980 125th Anniv. of N.Z.'s First Stamps (Zeapex) (1)	£2.25
1984 Antarctic Research (1)	£1.95
1984 N.Z. Military History (1)	£1.95
1985 Royal N.Z. Navy (1)	£2.05
1986 Scenic Bays (1)	£1.15
1987 Royal N.Z. Air Force (1)	£2.25
1987 Scenic National Parks (1)	£1.40
1988 R.P.S.N.Z. Centenary (1)	75p
1988 Scenic Walkways (1)	£1.30
1988 40c Brown Kiwi (1)	£4.50
1989 Trees (1)	£1.25
1989 Phillexfrance (1)	£3.75
1989 World Stamp Expo (1)	£1.75
1990 Commonwealth Games (2)	£1.30
1990 150th Anniv. of Treaty of Waitangi (1)	65p
1990 Orchids (1)	£3.75
1990 Stamp World London '90 (1)	£2.75
1990 150th Anniv. of Auckland (1)	£2.00
1990 150th Anniv. of Postage Stamps (1)	£1.95
1991 Rugby World Cup (1)	£1.60
1991 Phila Nippon (2)	£3.50
1992 Barcelona Olympics (1)	£2.10
1992 World Columbian Stamp Expo (2)	£4.00

Complete set of 'Other Issues' Miniature Sheets as listed (29 sheets) £65.00