

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

Second Pictorial 5d Swordfish. Readers may have observed recent reports of the discovery of a copy of this stamp, perf. 12½, overprinted Official. I have to declare at the outset that I have not seen the stamp in the flesh, only in a black-and-white photographic reproduction, so the comments that follow are of necessity indirect, but they are nonetheless relevant, and may be of interest.

It would be all too easy to dismiss this item out of hand as bogus. However, since there was nothing detectable from the illustration to support this conclusion, we have to consider the circumstances, the background and the possibilities in greater detail.

It seems to me that there are just three legitimate explanations as to how this stamp could have come about. The first of these, and the most obvious one, is that it was part of a regular and intentional overprinting of the 5d for official usage. But if that were the case, one would have to accept that such a printing has gone completely unrecorded, unrecognised and unsuspected for about half a century. To the best of my knowledge, no other example has ever been reported, and there has never been any hint of an official record of such a printing. It's also worth mentioning here that N.Z. Government Departments appear to have had a notably consistent lack of need for stamps of this denomination over the years. Apart from the turn-of-the-century 'O.P.S.O.' overprints (on the 5d Second Sideface and the 5d First Pictorial), there has been no other instance of this value specifically produced for official use, although there have been ample opportunities had they been required — in the Edward VII and George V issues before the one under discussion, and in the George VI issues immediately afterwards.

The second possibility is that a small quantity of 5ds (perhaps only one sheet) was inadvertently included among a batch of sheets of another denomination sent for overprinting. But that doesn't really stand up to examination. The only other values of the same dimensions as the 5d which were overprinted were the 2½d and the 2/-. We can discount the 2/- straight away, for the overprint on this value is invariably **vertical** in relation to the design, whereas on this 5d, it is **horizontal**, which leaves inclusion with a supply of 2½d as the sole possibility. The difficulty there is that sheets of the 2½d were of 60 stamps (in ten rows of six), while the 5d was always in sheets of 120 (in ten rows of twelve). Thus to be accidentally included in a stack of 2½d sheets, the 5d would have to have been in **half-sheet** form — an unlikely circumstance in itself. But even if that were the case, the stamps in a half-sheet of 5ds, having selvage on three sides only, would not have been in 'register' with sheets of 2½ds, which had the stamps more or less centrally placed within selvages on all four sides. Yet the aforementioned illustration of the 5d shows the overprint to be virtually perfectly centred between the vertical frame lines.

The final possibility is that this 'new' 5d is a previously unrecorded proof. But a proof of what, and why? It would clearly have to be a proof of the overprint (since the stamps themselves were printed in London, and the overprints added at a much later date in New Zealand). But why run off proofs of an overprint which had already been in use for years, and in a form of a size and make-up which wasn't required for any other purpose? Not credible.

From any point of view, the conclusion is the same. A lot more evidence, convincing evidence, is necessary before this '5d Official' can be considered genuine.

NEW ISSUES AND VARIETIES

from C.P. Newsletter Monthly

Royal Doulton Issue. This attractive and innovative set came out on the 20th January 1993, and appears in both sheet stamps, and in the case of the \$ 1.80 value, in a miniature sheet. The stamps designed by Brand New Ltd., Wellington, and printed by Leigh Mardon by lithography. The stamps appear in sheets of 50 (10 rows of 5) and the barcodes appear only in the left selvedge in each value (45c – 9 415599 001900; 50c – 9 415599 001907; 80c – 9 415599 001924; \$ 1 – 9 415599 001931; \$ 1.50 – 9 415599 001948; \$ 1.80 – 9 415599 001955) and both sheets and miniature sheets have horizontal mesh and the perforations gauge 13. The designs are: 45c Character Jug; 50c Bunnykins series; 80c Maori Art Tea Ware; \$ 1 Handpainted Plate; \$ 1.50 Burslem figurine; \$ 1.80 Salt-glazed Stoneware. Differentiating the miniature sheet stamp and the \$ 1.80 value from the main sheet stamps is extremely difficult, although in the sheet stamps the tips of the perforations on the right-hand side may be Deep Blue, whereas the miniature sheet stamp would not show this feature. Due to the varied positioning of the perforations clearly this is not an infallible method. (Editor's note: In Woking's supplies, the gold lettering on the panel at the left is fine and well-defined on large sheet stamps; on miniature sheet stamps, it is notably thicker and less well defined. But whether this is a constant feature, we can't say.) The Gold colour has shown a tendency to "set-off" on the back of the sheet above in the printed pile.

The Hardship Years: The latest in the 'Emerging Years' series appeared on the 17th February 1993. They were designed by Ross Jones, Wellington, and printed by Leigh Mardon, Melbourne, by lithography. The designs are (barcodes in brackets): 45c Buttons and Bows (9 415599 001788); 50c The Great Depression (9 415599 001795); 80c Phar Lap (9 415599 001801); \$ 1 State Housing (9 415599 001818); \$ 1.50 Free Milk for Schools (9 415599 001825); \$ 1.80 The Talkies (9 415599 001832); Each stamp is printed in six process colours. Mesh in each case is vertical and the perforations gauge 14½ x 14.

45c Rock Wren 2-Kiwi reprint. Mr. Hugh Murphy, of Auckland, reports that he has observed that the paper in the 2-Kiwi reprint recently appearing is of a coarser and toned appearance compared to the previous two printings in this value. The difference noted is marked and quite clearly visible to the naked eye, both in the mint and used states.

80c Fiordland Crested Penguin. A reprint has appeared in this issue showing one Kiwi in the left selvedge opposite horizontal row 8. The barcode is 9 415599 001290 and the most notable change is that the positioning of the imprint in the bottom left corner of the sheet has been changed with "Leigh Mardon, Melbourne, Australia" appearing opposite horizontal row 9 in the left selvedge and the name of the designer now appearing under vertical columns 1 and 2 in the bottom selvedge (previously under vertical columns 2 and 3). The paper of the new reprint is whiter and more translucent and appears finer in texture when compared with the original print which was coarse and toned. On the printing surface, the reprint paper in this 80c is more highly glazed and whiter than the original print. The sheet value marking in the upper selvedge at the right remains unchanged in this reprint.

\$5 Takahe – a correction. In a recent report, we described the gum of the new 1-Kiwi reprint as "creamy". In fact, the new gum is of a bluish appearance when compared to the original print which was white.

10c Queen's Head Coil Stamp (PA24a). A new variety recently seen by us is a new twist on "Official patching" within a strip of ten stamps. Two coils appear to have been joined – or possibly a single coil has been separated accidentally and rejoined. The patching used is a glassine (opaque wood-pulp paper) strip which is perforated in a slightly smaller gauge than the stamps themselves. Clearly the patching is a ready-perforated strip kept and used by the coil maker for the purpose. A most interesting variety and authentic, in our judgement.

8c Josephine Bruce, perf. 14½ x 13½ (PA8b). We have seen the first offset recorded in this issue in Red and Green. It is likely that only one sheet of this variety was ever found, as it is certainly rare. A good offset and clear and demonstrably genuine. This new listing will be featured in the C.P. Catalogue in due course.

1982 Map Stamp (PA35b). We have seen evidence of a sheet of this issue with imperforate at top with selvage (i.e. top strike of the comb missing).

14c on 10c Queen Overprint (PA31a); We have seen an extraordinary sheet of the above issue in which the lower four stamps in each of vertical columns 6 and 7 have become separated vertically as a "block" and then folded upwards and diagonally to cover stamps in horizontal rows 7 and 8, numbers 8 and 9, all prior to overprinting. The result of this is overprints printed diagonally "in positive" on the back, and stamps either partially missing or completely missing the overprint se-tenant with overprinted stamps. A dramatic and most unusual error. Stamps resulting from this remarkable variety will appear in C.P. Catalogue listings under PA31a in due course. The odds against such an error ever recurring must be astronomical.

45c Scenic Booklet Issue. Colin Capill, writing in 'The New Zealand Stamp Collector', December 1992 issue, notes that the printing plate for this issue comprised six panes, each of which contained 100 stamps and each of which made 10 booklet panes. The sheets of 100 stamps had the top and bottom selvages torn off and the side selvages were then used for affixing into folders. There are no inscriptions on the selvages.

1935 PICTORIALS – SINGLE WATERMARK ISSUES

A comprehensive listing of mint and used offers.

501(a)	½d Fantail (L1a). Unhinged mint copy	85p
(b)	As above, but lightly hinged	40p
(c)	As above. Marginal block of four, mint unhinged	£3.50
(d)	As above. Variety Watermark Inverted (L1aZ). Unhinged mint	£1.50
502(a)	1d Kiwi, Die 1, Perf. 14 x 13½ (L2a). Unhinged mint	50p
(b)	As above. Lightly hinged	20p
(c)	As above. Marginal block of four, mint unhinged	£2.25
(d)	As above. Plate block of four, pl. no. A1, A2 or B1, each block	£4.25
(e)	As above. Variety Watermark Inverted (L2aZ). Unhinged mint	£2.25
(f)	As above. Vertical pair with bottom selvage, upper stamp normal wmk, lower stamp wmk. letters. Mint unhinged	£3.75

503(a)	1d Kiwi, Die 1, Perf. 13½ x 14 (L2b). Marginal copy of this scarce issue, perfect unhinged mint	£75.00
(b)	As above. Sound commercially used example	£22.50
504(a)	1d Kiwi, Die 2 (L2c). The special booklet issue. Unhinged mint marginal copy, with 'Parisian Ties' advert in selvedge. Watermark upright or inverted, each ..	£8.25
(b)	As above. Set of two used, one wmk, upright, one wmk. inverted	£1.95
505(a)	1½d Maori Cooking, Perf. 14 x 13½ (L3a). Marginal copy, unhinged mint ...	£7.50
(b)	As above. Lightly hinged	£3.50
(c)	As above. Superfine mint block of four (2LH/2UH)	£22.50
(d)	As above. Fine used copy	£4.00
506(a)	1½d Maori Cooking, Perf. 13½ x 14, Wet Printing (L3b). Unhinged mint	£6.50
(b)	As above, but lightly hinged	£3.50
(c)	As above. Fine used	£3.25
(d)	As above. Plate block of four (pl. no. 1B). Stamps somewhat off-centre, and one with gum crease	£13.50
507(a)	1½d Maori Cooking, Perf. 13½ x 14, Wmk. Inverted-and-Reversed (L3c). Marginal example, unhinged mint. Scarce	£25.00
(b)	As above. Superb used copy	£17.50
508(a)	2d Whare (L4a). Unhinged mint	£2.50
(b)	As above, but lightly hinged	£1.25
(c)	As above. Superb unhinged block of four	£10.50
(d)	As above. Finest used copy	30p
509(a)	2½d Mt. Cook/Lilies, Perf. 14—13 x 13½ (L5a). Unhinged mint	£7.50
(b)	As above, but lightly hinged	£3.50
(c)	As above. Superb used copy. Scarce	£10.50
(d)	As above. Variety Watermark Inverted (L5aY). Mint unhinged, marginal ...	£22.50
(e)	As above. Same variety, but superb used	£27.50
(f)	As above. Unhinged mint plate block of four, with watermark inverted	£97.50
510(a)	2½d Mt. Cook/Lilies, Perf. 13½ x 14. Plate block of four, one stamp very lightly hinged. Superfine	£30.00

(b)	As above. Single copy, fine commercially used	£4.75
511(a)	3d Maori Girl (L6a). Unhinged mint	£20.00
(b)	As above, but very lightly hinged	£9.50
(c)	As above. Marginal block of four, Light hinge in selvage only	£80.00
(d)	As above. Although only one shade is listed for this issue, we can offer two excellent contrasts of dark chocolate and reddish chocolate. Used	£1.00
512(a)	4d Mitre Peak (L7a). Unhinged mint	£4.25
(b)	As above, but lightly hinged	£2.00
(c)	As above. Superb used	35p
513(a)	5d Swordfish, Perf. 13—14 x 13½ (L8a). Unhinged mint	£30.00
(b)	As above, but lightly hinged	£12.75
(c)	As above. Fine commercially used	£6.75
514(a)	5d Swordfish, Perf. 13½ x 14 (L8b). Marginal copy, mint unhinged	£32.50
(b)	As above. Commercially used	£7.50
515(a)	6d Harvesting (L9a). Marginal copy, unhinged mint	£8.50
(b)	As above. Perfect unhinged mint block of four	£32.50
(c)	As above. The listed shades of scarlet and bright scarlet, fine commercially used. The pair	£1.75
(d)	As above. A superb used block of four , cancelled by two strikes of the Hororata c.d.s. of 14 SP 35. Lovely used block	£10.50
516(a)	8d Tuatara (L10a). Unhinged mint copy in the brown shade	£9.50
(b)	As above. Lightly hinged mint example, sepia shade	£3.25
(c)	As above. Superfine mint plate block of four	£29.50
(d)	As above. Both the listed shades, fine commercially used. The pair	£2.75

(to be concluded)

522

5d SWORDFISH — COBALT BLUE

An exceptional example of this striking and rare variety — so striking in fact that it currently commands **two** listings in the C.P. Catalogue, L8f(5) and L8f(X)! This copy fully qualifies under both of these listings. The shade is very striking, **and** there is clear and widespread evidence of an albino impression of the design misplaced ¾mm above and 7 mm left of the printed impression. A magnificent showpiece — set alongside any normal L8f stamp, it stands out like a beacon. Superb unhinged mint, now Cat. \$ 750

£300.00

Magnificent top left corner block of 12 (4 x 3). Nine of the twelve stamps show varieties detailed in the N.Z. Handbook, Vol. 1. The most important of these are R2/1 (retouched 'LT' and 'Rift in clouds') and R3/3 (major 'Rift in clouds'). The cloud flaws were retouched after the first 2000 sheets had been printed, but curiously a very similar flaw on R1/4 (also present in this block) was never rectified. The entire block is in pristine condition – very lightly hinged in selvedge only

£175.00

KING EDWARD VII OFFICIALS

524(a)	½d Green (HO1a). Lightly hinged mint, fine	£2.00
(b)	As above. Set of two, in the listed shades of green and yellow-green	£4.75
	Excellent contrasts	
(c)	As above. The same two shades, used	90p
525(a)	3d Chestnut, Perf. 14 x 14½ (HO3a). Lightly hinged mint	£9.00
(b)	As above. Two superb shades of chestnut. Very fine mint	£22.50
(c)	As above. Similar set of two shades, superfine used	£3.25
(d)	As above. An unusual group of multiples, comprising strip of four, four vertical pairs and two horizontal pairs, all very fine used, and in an attractive range of shades. All the ingredients for a pretty page	£25.00
526	3d Chestnut, Perf. 14 x 13½ (HO3c). A good used copy of a very scarce stamp (Cat. \$ 135, S.G. £70)	£25.00
527(a)	6d Carmine (HO6b). Very lightly hinged mint	£13.50
(b)	As above. Set of two lovely shades of carmine, finest mint	£27.50
(c)	As above. Similar contrasts, finest used	£10.00
(d)	As above. Superb used single copy. Cat. \$ 15, special offer at only	£2.75
528(a)	8d Indigo-Blue, Perf. 14 x 14½ (HO7b). Fine, lightly hinged mint	£8.25
(b)	As above. Set of three striking shades, fine mint	£27.50
(c)	As above. Single copy (deep bright blue) with variety Watermark Inverted (HO7bZ)	£25.00
(d)	As above. Beautiful used block of four, again with variety Watermark Inverted ..	£57.50
529(a)	8d Indigo-Blue, Perf. 14 x 13½ (HO7c). Superb unhinged mint copy	£19.00
(b)	As above, but fine, lightly hinged mint	£8.25
(c)	As above. Set of two good shades, fine, lightly hinged	£17.50

(d) As above. Block of four, all stamps lightly hinged, but superb	£35.00
530(a) 1/- Orange-Vermilion (HO8b). Superfine mint copy, extremely lightly hinged ..	£32.50
(b) As above. Only one shade is listed in the 'Official', but as in the unoverprinted version, quite brilliant contrasts exist. Here are two – a full vermilion, paired with a pale orange vermilion. Finest mint	£67.50
(c) As above. Fine commercially used copy	£10.00

KING GEORGE VI – THE PROVISIONAL ISSUES

A specialised listing. As usual full annotation included where necessary. All items are mint.

531(a) 1d on ½d Green (M3a). Three fine green shades, each in block of four stamps .	£3.00
(b) As above. Imprint block of eight stamps	£25.00
(c) As above. The Government printer made several attempts to obliterate/remove the green plate numbers from both right and left selvages of surcharged sheets. These four blocks of four show (i) plate number blacked out, both right and left selvages; and (ii) plate number blacked and punched out, also right and left selvages. The four blocks	£67.50
(d) As above. Marginal pair of stamps, showing a triple attempt at removal of plate number – first by blacking out, then by two punched holes	£10.00
(e) As above. Corner block of twenty, with the plate 19 R7/5 retouch – MV3a(a)	£17.50
(f) As above. Three blocks (19 stamps) with R2/10, 3/22 and 8/23 surcharge varieties, all from Forme 1, and all listed in Volume 2, N.Z. Handbook	£37.50
(g) As above. Marginal block of four, Forme 2 surcharge, R1/7 and 2/7 varieties (also in Vol. 2)	£12.50
(h) As above. Marginal block of four, Forme 3, R2/5 surcharge variety	£10.00
(i) As above. Two blocks of four, Forme 5, R6/10 and 10/19 surcharge varieties .	£20.00
(j) As above. Two blocks of four, Forme 6, R1/17, 6/15 and 6/16 surcharge varieties	£20.00
(k) As above.. Five pieces (15 stamps) with different surcharge varieties (formes and positions not known)	£27.50
532(a) 2d on 1½d Chocolate (M5a). Two fine shades, each in mint block of four ..	£2.50
(b) As above. Imprint block of eight stamps	£25.00
(c) As above. Two corner blocks of eight, one with left plate number blacked/punched out, the other punched out only	£40.00

(d)	As above. Single stamp, the 2d surcharge offset on the back	£35.00
(e)	As above. Marginal block of six, plate 21 R8/1 variety	£12.50
(f)	As above. Marginal block of twelve, plate 20 R8/18 first state retouch — MV5a(a)	£22.50
(g)	As above. A similar block, but with second state retouch — MV5a(b)	£17.50
(h)	As above. Block of four, extremely thick '2D' one impression only	£10.00
(i)	As above. Two matching corner blocks of twelve (both blocks show R3/23, 4/23, 5/23, 6/24 surcharge varieties, as listed in Vol. 2), one with the plate numbers blacked/punched out, the other block with no black obliteration, but showing parts of three punched holes! A superb pair of blocks	£60.00
(j)	As above. Two marginal blocks (ten stamps) with Forme 2, R1/7 and 10/22 surcharge varieties	£20.00
(k)	As above. Imprint block of ten, from Forme 3, with R10/12 and 10/14 surcharge varieties. The major R10/10 re-inserted 2 variety emanates from this surcharge forme, but R10/10 in the block offered here appears quite normal, we regret to say!	£27.50
(l)	As above. Imprint block of eight, Forme 4, with R10/12 surcharge variety ..	£25.00
533(a)	3d on 1d Green (M18a). Two blocks of four in prominent green shades	£1.50
(b)	As above. Complete set of nine imprint/plate blocks — note that plate no's 108 and 109 are scarce — N.Z. Handbook, Vol. 4, records that no more than 20 sheets from the latter were overprinted	£55.00
(c)	As above. Corner block of 16 with imprint/plate no. 117, but with offset impression on the back of imprint/plate no. 118. Ten stamps in the block also show all or part of the design offset on the back. Almost certainly unique ...	£85.00
(d)	As above. Three blocks of four, including the R2/10, 4/2 and 8/8 surcharge varieties, listed in Vol. 4	£37.50
(e)	As above. Three further blocks of four, all with different surcharge varieties (two being unprinted)	£27.50
(f)	As above. Five blocks (38 stamps), including plate varieties from plates 112, 114, 115	£17.50
534(a)	1d on ½d Chestnut (M19a). Two excellent chestnut shades, in blocks of four .	£1.00
(b)	As above. Two imprint/plate blocks, pl. nos 101 and 133	£4.25

Fine example on somewhat cut-down piece, but still amply large enough to show all the salient features of this well-known forgery of the 1/- Full-Face Queen (complete with forged Large Star watermark)