

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN

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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

New 'Fastpost' Booklets. There has been something of a stir on the booklets scene in N.Z. in recent months. It apparently began when word got around that \$4 and \$8 booklets containing 80c Fiordland Crested Penguin stamps (the present basic Fastpost rate) were on sale in limited quantities at some Postshops. The furore intensified when **another \$8 Fastpost booklet**, clearly different in a number of respects, was issued.

The \$4 and the first \$8 are understood to have been put out on a trial basis, though as a trial for what purpose is not clear. After all, a Fastpost Booklet is hardly a new concept — the \$7 booklet issued in June 1988 was precisely for the convenience of users of the Fastpost service (the rate then being 70c, of course). Be that as it may, the circumstances of their issue make it pretty certain that these booklets were not merely another marketing ploy by N.Z. Post, for they were put out unannounced and without publicity, and our information is that the \$8 at least was never available from Bureaux.

Both of the 'trial' booklets have blue covers, identical but for the value and contents details on the front. Contents are as follows:

- \$4 — vertical strip of five stamps, attached by top or bottom selvedge. Additionally, a horizontal strip of six self-adhesive Fastpost labels, folded and attached behind the stamps.
- \$8 — vertical block of ten stamps, again attached by top or bottom selvedge. Additionally, a horizontal strip of ten self-adhesive Fastpost labels, again folded and attached behind the stamps.

The stamps used in the making up of both booklets are evidently taken from ordinary sheet stock, and thus a proportion of booklets include strips and panes showing the normal markings found in the top and bottom selvages of sheets. A peculiarity noted in a few \$4 booklets seen was strips from the top left corner of sheets **with side selvedge still attached**. (All other provable corner strips seen — i.e. those with sheet value marking, and those showing the 'Leigh Mardon' part of the imprint — had had the side selvedge removed).

The basic design of the covers is very similar to the \$4.50 'Non-hangsell' type of October 1991, with the Fastpost logo replacing the stamp illustration on the front cover of the latter. There are, however, one or two interesting differences, the most immediately obvious being the absence of

a barcode on the outer back cover. A rather more subtle difference lies in the facsimile postmark on the front cover. Clearly it comes from the same master as before, but on the trial booklets, it is **inverted-and-reversed!** Almost certainly, this is the result of an error at the design stage. Finally, the usual method of making up booklets in sheet-wide strips could not possibly have been followed. **These trial booklets must have been made up individually, using strips and blocks pre-torn from sheets.** In the case of the \$4, the reasons for this conclusion are obvious (there being a single-stamp-wide strip in a 'normal' size cover). In the case of the \$8, perhaps not so obvious, but the fact is that the apparently normal-sized covers are not normal at all. They are slightly over-size in depth. The difference is only about 1 mm, but that's more than enough to necessitate the panes to have been separated before insertion into the covers.

Evidently the \$8 version proved much more popular with users than the \$4 and our colleagues in Auckland advise that supplies of the former were as a result much more difficult to locate. Our latest information is, however, that **neither** is now readily obtainable, and our hunch is that both will turn out to be key items of the future.

The second \$8 booklet, previously mentioned briefly, is **superficially** very similar to the first. Cover colour is again blue, and the front is identical, **except that the "postmark" has now reverted to the form in which it appeared on the earlier \$4.50 booklets.** But there the similarity ends. The back cover has the now familiar barcode (in this case 941599001757), and the Roman numeral I; the wording on the inside and outside back cover is amended, both in style and content; the 'arrow-head' at the centre of the black and white 'zebra bars' is now printed with a much finer screen, appearing grey-black to the naked eye, whereas in all previous booklets with this feature (including the trials), it had a silver appearance; and the booklets, now issued in the usual se-tenant strips of five, **are made up from sheets devoid of any of the normal selvedge markings** — not immediately evident because the Fastpost labels (now a vertical strip of ten of the gummed type) are attached by their own selvedge over the selvedge of the stamps. Unlike the trial booklets, this one is a regular issue, with normal distribution and availability.

N.Z. NEW ISSUES AND VARIETIES (From C.P. Newsletter Monthly)

SCENIC — GLACIERS *This visually dramatic set appeared on the 12th June 1992 and features 45c Glacier Ice (Franz Josef Glacier), 50c Tasman Glacier, 80c Snowball Glacier, \$1.00 Brewster Glacier, \$1.50 Fox Glacier and \$1.80 Franz Josef Glacier. Although glaciers have featured on New Zealand stamps in the past, this set addresses one of the most impressive geological features of New Zealand comprehensively. The stamps were printed by Southern Colour Print, Dunedin, by lithography and the perforation gauge is 13.5 x 13.5. Paper was supplied by Peterborough Paper Converters and the mesh is vertical to the design. There are 100 stamps in each sheet and the stamps were designed by Alan Hollows of Wellington.*

CAMELLIAS ISSUE: *These beautiful stamps were issued on the 8th July 1992. The designs were by Pat Medearis Altman of Dunedin and the stamps were printed by Leigh Mardon Pty. Ltd., Australia, by lithography. There are 100 stamps in each sheet and the perforation gauge is 14.25 x 14.25. Mesh is vertical. Thematic collectors and flower enthusiasts all over the world will be delighted with the colour and detail of this set. The designs are a little unusual with the circular dark coloured backgrounds but clearly an attempt has been made to highlight the shapes and colours and enhance the visual impact of the stamps. Generally a successful set.*

REPRINTS REPORTED: *"1 Kiwi" reprints have been notified by N.Z. Post in the 10c Banded Dotterel and 20c Yellowhead issues. The single Kiwi appears in the left selvedge, opposite horizontal row 9 above the Traffic Lights. Mesh and perforations remain the same but in the value block (top*

selvedge above vertical column 10) "Value \$ 10" becomes "Value \$ 10/100 stamps @ 10c" and "Value \$ 20/100 stamps @ 20c". Barcodes appear four times in each sheet in the side selvedge as usual opposite horizontal rows 4 and 7. Barcode in the 10c is 9415599001214 and in the 20c 9415599001221. The two reprints are on paper which, although similar seen from the front, from the back appear more toned and "cream" as opposed to the white of the original issues.

BARCELONA OLYMPICS VARIETIES: In the sheet supply on all of our supply of sheets at row 6/4 in the \$ 1.50 value, there is a "tear" in the sailboarder's singlet just above the second 'a' of Barcelona. Row 5/10 of the same value shows a visible blue dot in the singlet above and to the left of '92'. In the \$ 1 value at R5/1 there appears a tear in the little finger of the glove of the horseman (blue). Also in the \$ 1 at R7/5 there is a green flaw to the right of the Olympic logo (constant in all sheets seen by us).

40c BROWN KIWI (PC14a): We have seen the bottom horizontal two rows of a sheet which has been mis-guillotined and below the imprint and across the full width of the sheet horizontally appears a unriegated and apparently random series of coloured squares. This must be a Leigh Mardon technique for ensuring proper printing registration. It's the first time we have ever seen this variety and it must be very rare. It is certainly spectacular and we suspect that an accurate recounting of the order of the the colour squares would add little to the argument save that the sequence yellow/black/white/cerise/blue/black/yellow appears to occur several times. A very rare, new error and unlikely to be repeated.

NEW \$ 4.50 BOOKLET (RED) OF 10 x 45c ROCK WREN STAMPS: This booklet is similar to the non-hanging booklet. A Roman numeral figure 'II' appears next to the barcode on the back cover, the barcode is unchanged. Previously booklets of this style had a figure 1. This reprint booklet appears to have made its first entry in mid-June 1992. The zebra stripe pattern visible on the inside of the back cover has also been changed in this reprint.

MODERN MAJOR ERRORS

Add a touch of class to your collection from this listing!

- | | | |
|---------------|--|----------------|
| 901 | ½c Glade Copper Butterfly. Unhinged mint copy with all four colours offset on on back (P1aX). Only the third example we have seen | £175.00 |
| 902(a) | 1c Red Admiral Butterfly. Copy on unwmk'd paper (bluish gum) with error Blue Colour Totally Omitted (P2cY). Not the most spectacular of missing colour varieties, but a scarce one. Unhinged mint | £125.00 |
| (b) | As above. Same issue, but with error Red Colour Totally Omitted (P2cX). This one really is spectacular! Unhinged mint | £187.50 |
| (c) | As above. Same issue again, but with major (2mm) shift of the red colour upwards and to the left. 2mm may not sound a lot, but in a small stamp, it's an enormous misplacement! Superb variety (P2cU), mint unhinged .. | £32.50 |
| 903 | 2c Tussock Butterfly. Copy on unwmk'd paper (bluish gum) with major error Black Colour Totally Omitted (P3bX). Another truly spectacular variety, mint unhinged | £185.00 |
| 904(a) | 4c Puriri Moth. Unhinged mint copy (no wmk, colourless gum) with error Dark Green (Wing Veins) Omitted (P6cZ). One of the commoner varieties, offered at only | £7.50 |

	(b) As above. Same issue, but with major error Light Green Colour Totally Omitted (P6cY). Not to be confused with the previous item! Mint unhinged .	£175.00
905(a)	7c Leather Jacket. Unhinged mint copy (no wmk, colourless gum) with Black Colour 90% Omitted. Very striking! In unhinged marginal pair with a normal stamp	£75.00
	(b) As above. Marginal copy, same issue, showing massive shift to right of bistre colour, with very peculiar results. Unhinged mint	£22.50
	(c) As above. Vertical pair, with top selvedge. Lower stamp normal, upper stamp with red-brown (main background colour) extraordinarily pale. Eye-catching, and most unusual. As a bonus, this pair is on unwmk'd paper with bluish gum — itself a very scarce issue. Mint unhinged	£37.50
906(a)	8c John Dory. Unwmk'd copy with major error Blue-Green Omitted (P11bX). In a word, fantastic! Mint unhinged	£250.00
	(b) As above. Unhinged mint copy with black colour misplaced 1½mm upwards and to the right. Nice!	£22.50
	(c) As above. Another good colour shift — this one of the green (not the blue-green), 2mm downwards. Unhinged mint	£8.75
907(a)	18c Maori Club, No Wmk. Major error Black Colour Totally Omitted (P14bX). Another in the really spectacular class. Mint unhinged	£180.00
	(b) As above. Complete Black Offset on Back (P14bV). In this copy the other two colours — apple green and red-brown — also appear, albeit faintly, offset on the back. Unhinged mint	£125.00
	(c) As above. Unhinged mint copy with huge upward shift (4mm) of the black colour (P14bY). Superb!	£45.00
908(a)	50c Abel Tasman National Park. Unhinged mint copy with major error Pinkish Buff (Shore) Totally Omitted (P19aY). Cat. \$ 200, offered at	£35.00
	(b) As above. Another major error — Left (dark green) Headland Totally Omitted (P19aV). Unhinged mint	£70.00
	(c) As above. Major upward shift of left headland (P19aU)	£30.00
909	2c Rose — 'Lilli Marlene'. Horizontal strip of three, with complete offset of design on 1½ stamps — remainder of strip normal. First time we've seen this, and beautiful it is (PA2aZ). Mint unhinged	£175.00
910	3c — 'Queen Elizabeth'. Major error Grey-Purple Omitted (PA3bY) - another we haven't seen before. Not only is the shading absent from the flowers, but all the modelling on the greenery too, leaving the foliage completely flat, and a quite different colour from normal. Mint unhinged .	£145.00
911	10c Queen in Frame. Major error Imperforate Pair (PA10aZ). Unhinged mint .	£200.00

912	15c Maori – Te Heu Heu. Unhinged marginal copy with magnificent full offset of the green colour on the back (PA25aZ)	£115.00
913	14c on 10c Queen Provisional. Variety Double Print of Surcharge, One Albino (PA31aW) – albino impression 1mm higher than the printed one. Unhinged mint. Cat. \$ 400. A snip at	£32.50
914	1977 AA/RACS Anniversaries. Se-tenant pair, the AA stamp with major error Grey Colour Omitted (S218aZ). (It should be noted that grey was not one of the colours used in the RACS design, so it is unaffected by the omission). Rare	£225.00

MISCELLANEOUS POSTAL HISTORY

915	31 DEC 1914, Egyptian postcard (to N.Z.) with N.Z. Military Post Office Expeditionary Force boxed cancellation	£12.50
916	1918 Censored Cover (to Sweden), with the familiar PASSED BY THE / MILITARY CENSOR / N.Z. cachet, but in red (not the usual purple)	£27.50
917	N.Z. Expeditionary Force/Presbyterian Institute/Tauherenikau Camp envelope (signed by the Chaplain) 1d Dominion adhesive cancelled by Featherston Military Camp c.d.s., and the cover backstamped with a United Methodist Institute cachet from Featherston Military Camp	£42.50
918	1937 Express Cover. Complete with Express label, Express Delivery adhesive (U1b) and two blue vertical lines across the envelope. Scarce	£30.00
919	Two 1950's envelopes, each with a different Official Stage-Coach Mail cachet (Invercargill – Riverton and Washdyke – Timaru)	£10.00
920	1963 Royal Visit to N.Z. A commemorative c.d.s. was used during this tour at Waitangi Treaty House (6 Feb.), Auckland (7 Feb.), Wellington (11 Feb.), Dunedin (14 Feb.) and Christchurch (16 Feb.) Five covers, four different illustrated and one plain, showing the complete set of one-day-only cancellations	£17.50
921	1960/1970's covers, all connected with Methodism in N.Z. The seven covers, and a leaflet (in English and Maori) relating to the first Wesleyan Service for the Maori	£12.50
922	Stockholmia '86, Eleven different covers, posted at the N.Z.P.O. stand on each day (28 Aug. – 7 Sept.) of this Swedish Philatelic Exhibition. Adhesives are all the then current Frama label, and show a good range of values	£17.50
923	2 Dec 1946. First N.A.C. Daily North Island Coastal Circuit. Four Different stages from the anti-clockwise route, each on special cover	£35.00
924	20 Jan 1947. "First Airmail to the Winterless North" covers, carried on N.A.C.'s inauguration of this regular passenger service. Four different stages, two Northbound and two Southbound	£30.00
925	23 – 26 Sept. 1947. Air Travel (N.Z.) Ltd's Last Air Mail over Westland's Scenic Air Route (pioneered in 1934 by 'Bert' Mercer, the flying Postman!) –	

airmail book pages 78–80.

(i)	Hokitika – Okuru (illustrated cover)	£12.50
(ii)	Hokitika – Jackson's Bay, Nelson – Jackson's Bay. Two stages each on different illustrated cover, and supplied with two different photographs ..	£30.00
(iii)	Three illustrated covers from Jackson's Bay to Hokitika, Westport, Nelson respectively, also photo showing Mussel Beach 'airfield'	£32.50
(iv)	Three different covers (Okuru – Hokitika, Okuru – Nelson, Upper Okuru – Hokitika)	£27.50

926	27 Sept 1948. N.A.C.'s inclusion of Palmerston North in their daily service. Four different stages	£27.50
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½d MT COOK

If the 1d Universal is a specialists' delight in red, the ½d Mt Cook is its equivalent in green. Many choice offers in the listing below.

927	Introductory Page. Mint blocks of four of the original design in purple, as it appeared in the 1898 Pictorial issue (E1a), and of the redrawn design in green (example included here is F4b), to show the differences in size and details of design, as well as colour. Both blocks unhinged mint!	£25.00
928(a)	Pirie Paper, Perf. 11 (F1a). Set of four brilliant shades, ranging from pale yellow green through to very deep green. Finest mint	£12.50
(b)	As above. Similar set of shades, but in superfine mint blocks of four	£62.50
(c)	As above. A magnificent top marginal block of 18 (6 x 3) in pale yellow-green. The philatelic beauty of this block is that, although it is six stamps wide, there is no trace of any divisional arrows in the selvage. Since these arrows were added (at six stamp intervals) soon after printing began, the block is proof of an early print. All stamps mint-unhinged, Cat. \$ 360	£75.00
(d)	As above. Unused copy with a magnificent complete and full-strength offset impression on the back. Not listed – but it should be!	£47.50
929(a)	Pirie Paper, Perf. 14 (F1b). Single copy, unhinged mint	£13.50
(b)	As above. Superfine mint block of four, upper pair very lightly hinged ..	£42.50
930(a)	Pirie Paper, Perf. 14 x 11 (F1c). Unhinged mint copy	£6.75
(b)	As above. Two fine green shades, unhinged mint	£15.00
(c)	As above. Unhinged marginal block of four, with divisional arrow centrally in selvage	£27.50
931	Pirie Paper, Perf. 11 x 14 (F1d). Corner block of four, superb unhinged mint	£57.50
932	Pirie Paper, Mixed Perfs. Very fine mint copy	£15.00
933(a)	Basted Mills Paper, Perf. 11 (F2a). A scarce stamp, especially in unhinged mint condition, as here offered	£47.50

(b)	As above, but lightly hinged	£20.00
(c)	As above. Very fine, well centred block of four, hinged on upper pair only ..	£140.00
934(a)	Basted Mills Paper, Perf. 14 (F2b). Unhinged mint copy	£17.50
(b)	As above, but hinged mint	£7.50
935(a)	Basted Mills Paper, Perf. 11 x 14 (F2d). Unhinged mint copy	£17.50
(b)	As above, but lightly hinged	£7.50
(c)	As above. Corner block of four, light hinged in selvage only	£75.00
(d)	As above. Marginal block, with divisional arrow centrally in selvage. Fine mint	£52.50
936(a)	Cowan Unwmk'd Paper, Perf. 14 (F3b). Unhinged mint copy	£11.50
(b)	As above, but hinged mint	£6.00
(c)	As above. Two unhinged marginal blocks of four in fine shades of green and deep green	£75.00
(d)	As above. Marginal block in the deep shade, again mint unhinged	£40.00
(e)	As above. Block of four including the good Plate 1, R3/11 re-entry, and the more minor one on R4/10. Superfine mint	£42.50
937	Cowan Unwmk'd Paper, Perf. 14 x 11 (F3c). Superb unhinged mint copy — rare thus	£87.50
938	Cowan Unwmk'd Paper, Mixed Perfs. (F3e). Marginal copy showing mixed perfs. vertically at both sides. Very lightly hinged, and superfine	£57.50
939(a)	Cowan Wmk'd Paper, Perf. 11 (F4a). Beautiful copy in deep green, mint unhinged	£50.00
(b)	As above. Another example in a much paler shade. Previously hinged, but very fine	£25.00
940(a)	Cowan Wmk'd Paper, Perf. 14 (F4b). Lovely set of three shades — green, deep green and pale green — finest mint	£6.25
(b)	As above. Corner block of four with sheet serial number. From a late printing -plate very worn, and shade the duller green we've seen. Superb unhinged mint ..	£20.00
(c)	As above. Another corner block — this one from bottom right of a sheet, and showing the watermarked dandy roll no. 1 in the corner of the selvage. Mint unhinged	£20.00
(d)	As above. Unhinged mint copy with variety Watermark Inverted-and-Reversed (F4bW)	£27.50

(e)	As above. An extensive vertical flaw occurred on Plate 1. This began at the foot of R6/14, ran through R7/14, and ended at the top of R8/14. By means of the two mint blocks of four here offered (one F4b, the other F3b), we have reconstructed the entire flaw. Superb material!	£55.00
(f)	As above. The same enormous plate flaw, shown in its entirety in two F4b vertical pairs, fine used	£25.00
941(a)	Cowan Wmk'd Paper, Perf. 11 x 14 (F4c). Unhinged mint copy	£15.00
(b)	As above. Set of two, fine mint, in brilliantly contrasting shades of deep green and pale green	£17.50
(c)	As above. Marginal block of four, in the pale shade, mint unhinged	£65.00
(d)	As above. Superfine mint pair, one stamp being PI, 1 R8/14, thus showing the lower, and most prominent, part of the flaw previously mentioned	£20.00
942(a)	Cowan Wmk'd Paper, Mixed Perfs. (F4e). Horizontal pair (with official patching) with mixed perfs. between the stamps. Superfine mint	£30.00
(b)	As above. Marginal block with mixed perfs. horizontally. The block is from Rows 9 and 10, Stamps 13 and 14, and shows part of the scratched plate number 3 in the bottom selvedge. Finest mint	£65.00
(c)	As above. Another marginal block, with mixed perfs. at foot. Block includes R10/2, showing the prominent and seldom seen "screwdriver" flaw (through ALA) which occurred late in the life of Plate 1	£47.50
943	New Perkins Bacon Plates, Perf. 14 (F5a). Set of three listed shades, fine mint	£22.50
944(a)	New Perkins Bacon Plates, Perf. 14 x 12½ – 13¼ (F5b). Unhinged mint set of two, in dull green and deep yellow green respectively	£15.00
(b)	As above. The same two striking contrasts, but fine lightly hinged	£7.50
(c)	As above. Block of four, in deep yellow-green, including the Plate 1, R1/24 and R2/24 re-entries. Finest mint	£25.00
945(a)	New Perkins Bacon Plates, Perf. 14 x 15 (F5c). Set of three shades as listed. Superfine mint	£15.00
(b)	As above. Marginal block of four, unhinged mint, in deep green, but offered as the cheapest shade at, the block	£22.50
(c)	As above. Plate block of four, pl. no. 2, mint unhinged. Cat. \$ 800	£265.00
(d)	As above. Top marginal pair with no less than three extra strikes of the comb head, the lowest of which results in the stamps having double perfs. at top ...	£32.50
(e)	As above. Mint block of four (2LH/2UH) exactly matching Lot 940(c) above, showing the same two re-entries	£20.00