

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

The Printing and Stationery Department Adhesive Label. Mr. Colin G. Capill writes from New Zealand: I wish to enlarge upon your notes on the adhesive postage labels used by the Printing and Stationery Department (August 1992 Bulletin).

An article giving background information on these adhesive labels and whether they should be listed in stamp catalogues was written by Dr. K.J. McNaught and published in the Zeapex '80 Stamp Exhibition Magazine No. 4. At that time three covers bearing these labels were known to exist and the cover now described by you is the fourth. These four covers, which are all postmarked Wellington, were posted on the following dates:— 5 October 1889, 25 June 1890, 24 June 1891 and 7 August 1891. In addition a small number of used labels are known but one would think that by having a usage period of approximately four years there would be more in existence. Consequently, several questions arise:— Were they possibly used by only one person? or in one particular section of the Department? or only on a certain category of mail? or to a particular country or destination, e.g. to England? (all four covers known are addressed to the Agent-General for N.Z. in London). Three appear to be addressed by the same person — the handwriting on the fourth is not known by this writer. *(I believe the fourth cover, i.e. the one I described, is also addressed in the same hand — Ed.)*

The Printing and Stationery Department posted large volumes of mail and the envelopes, wrappers, postcards, parcel labels, etc. were generally printed with the authorised superscription and/or frank stamp, this being of the same design as the adhesive label. In addition, the Government Printer was also authorised to frank mail by applying his signature, (actual or facsimile) so one could question the need for the Department to used adhesive labels at all.

As you correctly stated, the labels were printed in black on a blue wove unwatermarked paper in sheets of unknown size and were perforated 12½. The writer also possesses a single unused copy printed in black on a thin white unwatermarked paper. This is also perforated 12½. Do any other such copies exist? or copies on any other colour or type of paper?

As the need for adhesive labels has been questioned, could the Government Printer have been experimenting by printing these labels on different types of paper, then perforating them, as practice for printing and perforating postage stamps? The ½d Newspaper stamp and the Second Sideface stamps were printed by the Government Printer and some of these values printed during the period 1883 to 1891 were also perforated 12½.

As the sheet size is still unknown do readers have any pairs or multiples or copies bearing a selvedge that may enable a sheet to be reconstructed?

The writer has a single unused copy with top selvedge (5mm wide) printed on the blue wove paper on which thick black lines have been printed diagonally from corner to corner. The reason for this is not known, it may have been done to deface stock when their use was discontinued. One could ask, instead of going to this trouble why didn't the Government Printer just destroy the remaining stock?

Another, and more likely theory is that this is a specimen copy. The reason for this is as follows. The Post and Telegraph Official circular of 1 April 1886 contains the following notice:—

NEW FRANK-STAMP TO BE USED BY THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

The Government Printer and Stationery Manager has adopted a new frank-stamp, approved of by this office, for letters, packages, etc. posted by his Department. A specimen of the stamp has been sent to each Chief Postmaster. Permission has been given, however, for using up stock in hand of covers, envelopes, etc., bearing the old frank-stamp.

The second sentence — "A specimen of the stamp" — is of particular relevance. Does this refer to a specimen of the frank stamp as printed on stationery, or to an actual adhesive label? If the latter, then it is possible the Government Printer could have defaced them to prevent illegal use. If so, then these would be classified as "Specimens". The distribution of examples to Chief Postmasters of frank stamps that had been authorised by the Post Office had been done previously. In 1881 when the Public Trust Office was authorised to use special envelopes bearing their printed frank the Post Office sent a sample envelope to all Chief Postmasters. Therefore, it is quite possible, that specimens of these adhesive labels were also distributed.

Due to the scarcity of material the questions raised here may never be answered but if readers can supply additional information would they please do so through the editor? Photo-copies of interesting items would also be welcomed.

From C.P. Newsletter Monthly

NEW ISSUES AND VARIETIES by Marianne Versluys

1992 HEALTH ISSUE: *This year's Health stamps feature two sportsmen on the two values — the 45c + 5c shows Anthony Wilding, one of New Zealand's tennis performers, and the 80c + 5c shows Stewie Dempster, one of New Zealand's greatest cricketers who had a test match batting average of 65.7 — one of our all-time greatest batsmen. They are well-designed stamps, if a little pedestrian in treatment. Date of issue was 12 August 1992. The stamps and first day cover were designed by Terry Crilley of Bay of Many Coves, Marlborough Sounds. Southern Colour Print of Dunedin printed the stamps by lithography on Peterborough paper. Sheets have 100 stamps each, in 10 rows of 10. The perforation gauge is 13.75 by 13.5 in the main sheets, and in the Miniature Sheets, which contain two copies of each stamp, the perforation is 14.25 x 14.25. Paper mesh is vertical in each case. The barcode number for the 45c + 5c stamp is 9415599001450, while for the 80c + 5c stamp the barcode number is 9415599001467.*

Flaws noted: 80c + 5c — R10/1: *In some sheets seen by us there was a small flaw in the green of the grass showing up as a buff coloured spot below the left knee.*

PANORAMA BOOKLET ISSUE, 10 x 45c STAMPS: *This unusual booklet contains a stamp pane showing 10 different stamp designs which together form a complete panorama of somewhat stylised New Zealand scenery. The booklet was issued on the 1st September 1992 and the stamps*

and first day covers were designed by Van de Roer Design of Wellington. Leigh Mardon printed the stamps by lithography. These stamps have been seen in both hang-sell and non-hanging booklets. Both types of booklet are sealed shut with gum spots and in all booklets seen to date the stamps have been attached by a plain left selvage. No selvage markings have been seen yet. Non-hanging booklets are issued in strips of five and can be detached by roulettes. Hang-sell type booklets are available only singly and appear to have been guillotined apart. The barcode on the back of the non-hanging booklet is 9415599001009, the number on the hang-sell is 9415599001887. Both booklets have the Roman numeral 'I' on the back cover. Perforation gauge for the panorama stamps is 14 x 14.25. Mesh is vertical.

Editor's Note: And another sign of impending deregulation? The N.Z. Post logo now appears on the stamps and rather than "New Zealand" we now have "New Zealand Post". There was strong reaction against this new feature and N.Z. Post's high-handedness in the correspondence column of the "Herald". It can be seen as a preparation for more competition. Does N.Z. Post management expect its competitors to issue stamps — or are they over-reacting to a threat which if it does materialize, may only do so in a qualified sense?

C.P. LOOKS BACK by Campbell Paterson

My initiation into the idea of specialization was a major change for me. Prior to that I had collected on strictly traditional lines, and my immediate enthusiastic response to the new idea is not in any way meant to suggest any superiority in specialization. We all start collecting on strictly traditional lines. If a stamp looks (in any major way) different, one keeps it; if it is apparently identical with one already in one's collection, one discards it or keeps it for swapping.

To some, (by far the majority), the traditional way is the only way they ever collect. To me, and to many others, specialization becomes the study of one issue (or even of one stamp). The idea of having a collection in which every stamp is apparently just another copy of the same thing, is unattractive, and even (in the ignorant) a subject of incomprehension and derision.

I won't argue the point — every man to his own choice, I say. In any case even the most devoted specialist probably has a sideline interest. Such may be of stamps of any kind that amuse or appeal to him only for their beauty. So one can have a foot in both camps.

In yet another case of my luck in philately, it would be about 1938 (I speak from memory) that there appeared the first volume of "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand". This was a masterly work edited by R.J.G. Collins and H.T.M. Fathers. I would need a very big book to encompass this work and subsequent volumes, so I won't try. Suffice to say that on the data given of every issue of New Zealand from 1855 to 1938, it put all earlier works of similar kind completely in the shade. A marvellous work indeed, and providing me with the means to convert my 'average' knowledge of New Zealand stamps into an advanced knowledge, where literally any stamp was not only known to me, but familiar as to its history and potentiality for close study.

It was here that I was able to put to further use the habit and ability to study a stamp — any stamp — with the concentration, even dedication, I had learned to use with every Penny Black that came my way. Hence my earlier saying that the fascination of specialization, which I had recently learned, came into use in a completely different field.

Probably because of my deafness I had plenty of spare time to study literally every kind of philatelic literature I could borrow or buy. And with the habit of reading came knowledge. This knowledge made it possible for me to be an expert in "New Zealand", and thus (later) to turn my beloved hobby into a fascinating and joyful daily occupation.

(To be continued.)

ONE PENNY DOMINION (Concluded)

1101(a) 'Art' Paper, Litho Wmk. (J5a). Unhinged mint block of four	£4.50
(b) As above. Set of six mint copies, showing a fine range of shades of the printed 'Watermark'	£8.50
(c) As above. Finest mint example with deep blackish green wmk. (J5aU). Doesn't quite qualify as a true 'black' wmk., but very close	£9.50
(d) As above. Unhinged mint block of four with variety Doubly Gummed. Gum has a distinctive crackled appearance, and the second coating has clearly been applied after perforating — in our opinion to strengthen the perfs, which are frequently very fragile and prone to splitting in this issue	£12.50
(e) As above. Another unhinged block, this one with colourless wmk. on vertical mesh paper (J5aR). Cat. \$ 80, offered at	£19.50
(f) As above. Unhinged mint copy with the rare error Wmk. Printed on Front (J5aZ)	£57.50
1102(a) Cowan Paper (J6a). Fine mint copy, lightly hinged	£2.25
(b) As above. Finest mint block of four, lower pair normal, upper pair (from top row of sheet) showing pronounced blurring of design at top, due to plate wear	£17.50
(c) As above. Superfine mint example with Feather flaw (J6aV)	£14.50
(d) As above. Unhinged mint vertical pair, giving all the appearance of being imperf between (which, in comb perforating is of course, impossible). Reason is a most unusual hiccup in the perforating process, where one strike — and one strike only — of the head was misplaced upwards by 5mm, then reverted to normal	£25.00
(e) As above. Superb marginal pair of the error completely imperforate (J6aY) ..	£55.00
(f) As above. The same variety, but in a magnificent block of four, with clear BPA 1957 certificate signed by a host of well-known names!	£117.50
1103(a) Cowan Reversed Wmk. Paper (J7a). Unhinged mint copy	£11.25
(b) As above. Top marginal block of four, lower pair normal, upper pair again showing pronounced plate wear blurring of design at top, due to absence of protective buffer bars on the plate. Lightly hinged in selvage only — superb and fresh	£47.50
(c) As above. Unhinged mint copy with variety Broken Globe (J7aX)	£27.50
(d) As above. Superb mint strip of three, centre stamp with 'Broken N' flaw (J7aV). Very scarce	£57.50
(e) As above. Superfine mint example with delicate but complete offset impression on the back (J7aZ)	£17.50

1104(a) Wiggins Teape Paper (J8a). Unhinged mint copy	£15.00
(b) As above. Top marginal block of four, matching lot 1103(b) above in all respects	£65.00
(c) As above. Set of two distinctive shades, both unhinged mint, one being the normal purplish carmine, the other deep dull carmine. Striking	£32.50
(d) As above. The same contrasting shades, but lightly hinged	£16.25
(e) As above. Superb lightly hinged example with the big 'Broken N' flaw (J8aU) .	£42.50
(f) As above. Fine used copy (c.d.s.) with variety Watermark Inverted (J8aZ) ..	£12.50

KING GEORGE V PLATE PROOFS

105(a) Recess-Prints. Lovely complete set of 12 (1½d, 2d, 2½d, 3d, 4d, 4½d, 5d, 6d, 7½d, 8d, 9d, 1/-) printed in black on unwatermarked paper, imperf. Seldom seen in complete set — 5d and 8d are usually missing	£67.50
(b) As above. 5d value only, but on paper wmk'd NZ and Star	£6.50
(c) As above. 6d value only, but printed on paper wmk'd NZ and Star inverted ..	£6.50
(d) As above. 8d value only — set of two, one with wmk. NZ and Star upright, the other with the same wmk. inverted	£14.50
(e) As above. 1/- value only, but printed on paper with NZ and Star wmk inverted .	£6.50
1106(a) Surface Prints. Lovely set of eight different, all printed on thin white highly surfaced card, imperf. Set comprises ½d (4, in yellow-green, green, black and blue-black respectively), 1½d (2, black and grey-black) 2d black, 3d grey-black. The set of eight plate proofs, superb condition	£27.50
(b) As above. Block of four of the ½d in black, on the same thin card	£12.50
(c) As above. Set of seven different, all printed on gummed paper wmk'd NZ and Star, comprising ½d (3, in black, grey-black and pale grey), 1½d in black, 2d in black, 3d (2, in black and grey)	£25.00

1967 — 1969 PICTORIALS — Continued

1112(a) 6c (OD8). Both imprint/plate blocks (twelve stamps each block)	£16.00
(b) As above. Two counter coil pairs (ODC8), coil numbers in orange and carmine respectively	£6.50
1113(a) 7c (OD9). Both plate blocks, both imprint blocks (six stamps per block), and a marginal block of four with guide mark	£20.00
(b) As above. Two block of four, different green shades (lettering and leaves). Nice	£7.50
(c) As above. Marginal block of six with R9/1 retouch (ODV9e), R10/3 retouch also included	£6.25

(d) As above. Marginal block of ten, with R16/5 variety (listed in Volume 6, N.Z. Handbook)	£7.50
1114(a) 8c (OD10). Imprint/plate block of eight stamps	£6.00
(b) As above. This imprint/plate block of eight stamps has a rather wider than normal left selvage, and shows part of a red registration mark which is normally guillotined off	£7.50
(c) As above. Marginal block of four, with R12/1 retouch (a Vol. 6 variety) ...	£6.25
(d) As above. Counter coil pair (ODC10) with variety 'retouch in E of ZEAL' (position not known)	£3.75
(e) As above. This coil pair (ODC10) has the two stamps in dark and light blue shades respectively	£3.75
1115 10c (OD11). Imprint/plate block of eight stamps	£6.00
1116(a) 15c, Original Colours (OD12a). Imprint/plate block of twelve stamps	£12.50
(b) As above. Inverted Watermark (OD12aZ) variety, unmounted mint:	
(i) single copy	£4.50
(ii) Block of four	£17.50
(iii) Sheet value block of four	£22.50
1117(a) 15c Colour Change (OD12b). Imprint/plate block of eight, sheet value block of four (pen corrected) and colour code block of four	£10.00
(b) As above. Normally, imprint/plate blocks have a red line above the imprint details in the bottom selvage. This block shows only small traces of the line	£10.00
(c) As above. Imprint/plate block with vertical green flaw affecting the left hand side of the Tiki design in R9/1 and 10/1	£10.00
(d) As above. Counter coil pairs (ODC12), complete set of section numbers (1 – 29). Cat. \$ 232	£50.00
(e) As above. Coil pair (ODC12) with R1/10 variety (scratch in eye of Tiki) ..	£4.00
1118(a) 20c Maori Rock Drawing (OD13). Imprint/plate block of ten and sheet value block of four	£20.00
(b) As above. The two Catalogued shades of brownish buff and yellow-buff, Superb	£5.00
(c) As above. The same excellent shades, but blocks of four (one set only)	£20.00
(d) As above. One of the key 1967 counter coil pairs (ODC13), unhinged mint, with first-class perfs.	£10.00
1119(a) 25c Butter Making (OD14). Imprint/plate block of six	£17.50
(b) As above. Two marginal blocks of four, with different yellow and brown registration markings	£17.50

(c) As above.	Marginal block of six, with R8/6 flaw (ODV14a)	£17.50
1120	1900 1½d BOER WAR CONTINGENT, PERF. 11 (E4a)	
	Set of three mint blocks of four, in quite outstanding shades of brown , deep chestnut and pale reddish chestnut — brilliant contrasts, and apart from the odd negligible perf. tone, in superb condition	£125.00
1121	CHRISTCHURCH EXHIBITION 6d	
	A fine used copy (cancelled by Sydenham c.d.s. of 15 DE 06), with variety Watermark Reversed (S4aY). Centred just fractionally high and left, but we're being pedantic in even mentioning that. Offered at a substantial discount on normal Catalogue price of \$600, and with no premium for the watermark variety, which is very much scarcer than either of the ordinary sideways watermarks	£185.00
1122	AUCKLAND EXHIBITION 1d SLOT MACHINE ISSUE	
	A delightful pair from this rare issue doubly gummed and with central butted join . Surface scuff on left side of one stamp, almost certainly caused by the gripper mechanism of the machine (grripper teeth marks also evident on the right hand side of the same stamp). Cat. \$400 as singles	£150.00
1123	1940 CENTENNIAL PLATE BLOCKS	
	A magnificent and near-complete run of 96 blocks, lacking only the virtually impossible 2d plates A7 and A8 and, for some inexplicable reason, the 4 x 10d Surcharge plates, which are quite common. The 9d 'B1' block shows the figure inserted in a second printing, and the 1/- is in the rare 'block of eight' form. Two of the 2d blocks have creases, otherwise condition throughout is exceptionally fine and fresh, with not a trace of the tone spots so frequently found in this issue. The collection of 95 plate blocks of four, and 1 block of eight, now Cat. \$1820	£650.00
	ARMS TYPES, MINT	
1124(a)	1/3d Lemon Yellow. On Cowan paper — the only issue of this stamp (Z30a). Unhinged mint copy	£15.00
	(b) As above, but lightly hinged	£9.00
1125(a)	1/3d Orange-Yellow. Very lightly hinged copy on Cowan paper (Z30b)	£3.25
	(b) As above, but Wiggins Teape paper, mult. wmk. upright (Z30d). Unhinged mint	£3.00
	(c) As above, but lightly hinged copy	£1.50
	(d) As above. Corner block of four, mint unhinged	£15.00
1126(a)	1/3d Orange-Yellow/Black. Mult. wmk. inverted (Z30e). Unhinged mint	£1.50
	(b) As above. Lightly hinged copy	80p
	(c) As above. Corner block of four, mint unhinged	£7.50

(d) As above. Error lettering printed in blue (Z30eZ). Mint unhinged. Cat. \$ 20, offered at	£2.50
(e) As above, but lightly hinged	£1.50
(f) As above. Unhinged mint corner block of four	£12.50
(g) As above, but mult. wmk. upright (Z30f). Scarce! Mint unhinged. Cat. \$ 100 .	£20.00
(h) As above, but lightly hinged	£12.50
(i) As above. Marginal block of four, mint unhinged. One block only available ..	£90.00
(j) As above. Unhinged mint copy on unsurfaced paper (Z30g)	£2.00
(k) As above, but lightly hinged	£1.00
(l) As above. Variety Watermark Inverted (Z30gZ). Cat. \$ 50. Special offer, unhinged	£5.00
(m) As above. The same variety, but in unhinged marginal block of four	£25.00
1127(a) 2/6d Deep Brown. Mult. wmk. upright (Z31c). Mint unhinged	£6.00
(b) As above, but very lightly hinged	£3.50
1128(a) 4/- Orange-Red. Superb, very lightly hinged copy on Cowan paper (Z32a)	£11.00
(b) As above. Mult. wmk. upright (Z32c). Very lightly hinged	£4.50
1129(a) 5/- Green. Cowan paper (Z33a). Marginal copy, light hinge in selvedge only. Superb	£22.50
(b) As above. Mult. wmk. upright (Z33c). Very fine, lightly hinged	£6.00
1130 6/- Rose. Cowan paper (Z34a). Superb unhinged example	£27.50
1131(a) 7/- Pale Blue. Cowan paper (Z35a). Marginal copy, very lightly hinged in selvedge only, stamp brilliant unhinged	£35.00
(b) As above. Mult. wmk. upright (Z35c). Superb unhinged	£20.00
1132(a) 7/6d Grey. Mult. wmk. inverted (Z36c). Marginal copy, superb mint unhinged .	£57.50
(b) As above. Equally fine unhinged copy, but non-marginal	£52.50
1133(a) 8/- Indigo-Violet. Cowan paper (Z37a). Brilliant unhinged	£35.00
(b) As above. Mult. wmk. upright (Z37c). Unhinged and superb.....	£25.00
1134(a) 9/- Brown-Orange. Mult. wmk. upright (Z38c). Marginal copy, unhinged and superfine	£25.00
(b) As above. Another unhinged example, non-marginal, but same superb unhinged condition	£20.00

(to be concluded)