

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN

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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

\$4 and \$8 Trial fastPOST Booklets (without barcodes). When these came to general public attention around mid-1992, it was reported in New Zealand that they were not a first, but in fact a **second**, issue, having been preceded a few months earlier by a very small 'pilot' supply (200 booklets of each denomination) which were distributed for sale through three Postshops in Auckland. These were apparently sold out before collectors even knew of their existence, and as far as is known to the present time, none has survived. So no details of this 'pilot' supply have been available; in particular, it has not been possible to ascertain whether they differed in any respect from those which did become available for inspection.

However, C.P. Newsletter Monthly (Feb. 1993) throws some very interesting light on a subject which, until now, has been shrouded in mystery. In a report initiated by Mr. Jim Lawrance, of Opotiki, it draws attention to the N.Z. Post brochure publicising the Christmas 1992 issue. This brochure includes an item — nothing to do with Christmas stamps — headed "Handy New Stamp Booklet", which features an illustration ostensibly of an exploded \$8 fastPOST booklet. At first glance, and even at second glance, this illustration appears to be of little significance. The fastPOST labels shown, for example, are of the type associated with the regular-issue \$8 booklet (with barcode). But Mr. Lawrance has made the fascinating observation (now confirmed by correspondence with N.Z. Post) that the **cover** included in the illustration is **actually that of one of the original, never-previously-examined experimental booklets** from the pilot supply mentioned above, proving in the process that it is indeed different from either that of the main supply of \$8 trial booklets, or that of the regular \$8 issue. Very well spotted, Mr. Lawrance!

In a letter signed by the Manager, Stamps-Marketing, N.Z. Post explained that "the booklet featured in the Christmas issue brochure was mocked-up for photography purposes". The cover was from a booklet in the original (trial) production but the fastPOST stickers included in the photograph were from the third production run (in a 'sheet' rather than a 'strip').

The booklet cover in the illustration appeared in closed form, face upwards, but even so it is clearly and identifiably different from either of its 'lookalikes' — in fact, a kind of half-way-house between the two. Mr. Lawrance points out that the wavy lines of the black date-stamp impression in the design are "upward-curving" as they leave the arc of the circle (as in the barcoded cover, whereas they are "downward-curving" in the main supply of trial booklets), while the triangular 'arrow' at the centre of the 'zebra bars' is in light grey (as in the main

supply of trial booklets, whereas in the barcoded covers, this triangle is deep grey-black). To these we can add another characteristic. In all barcoded \$8 booklets we have seen, only the central **two** zebra bars — the black ones partially masked by the triangular arrow — are visibly shorter (by about 1mm) than the remainder; in all trial booklets seen (\$4, \$8, and the illustrated cover under discussion), the central **four** bars — two black, two white — are short.

As Mr. Lawrance says, the key point about his keen observation is that collectors are now aware what the original covers of the first experimental type fastPOST booklet looked like, and if any **should** happen to have survived, they should be instantly recognisable.

We wonder if the same holds good for the first 200 \$4 booklets. If the circumstances are similar, the only means of recognising these would be the inverted-and-reversed date-stamp impression.

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

The Emerging Years — 1920's "PAINTING THE CLOUDS WITH SUNSHINE". These imaginative designs were issued on the 4th November 1992 and are as follows: 45c Flaming Youth: 50c Birth of Broadcasting; 80c The Invincibles; \$1 The Swaggy; \$1.50 The Motorcar Brings Freedom \$1.80 The Arrival of the Air Age. Perforations gauge 13½ x 13¼ and the mesh is horizontal. The stamps were designed by Terry Crilley and printed by Southern Colour Print in Dunedin. Barcodes appear four times in each sheet (twice in each side selvedge) and are as follows: 45c 9 415599 001610; 50c 9 415599 001627; 80c 9 415599 001634; \$1 9 415599 001641; \$1.50 9 415599 001658; \$1.80 9 415599 001665. All values, except the \$1 and \$1.50 employ five standard colours, and the \$1 and \$1.50 employ four colours. The traffic lights appear in the bottom selvedge under stamp 3 in row 10. The stamps are printed by lithography.

Flaws noted: In the \$1.80, R9/5 features a small yellow dot on the value ring at the 2 o'clock position. This is a flaw in the cerise plate; it appears to be constant at this position on one of the plates used. Also in the \$1.80 at row 8/3, we have seen a short red line to the left of the male figure's head. This flaw also appears to be constant to one position on one of the plates employed.

In the \$1.50 at row 6/7 we have observed a small white flaw above the 'L' of "LAND". This flaw is believed to be semi-constant.

In the 80c value at R2/9 we have observed a faint white ring above the figure '8'. This flaw, although faint, is believed to be constant at this position. In our supply of plate blocks, we have noted three sheets in the \$1.50 value with very irregular printing in the top frameline. As this colour is produced by a combination of the cerise and yellow colours, the defective print appears to be in the cerise and is also present to a lesser extent in the bottom frameline. This is a "faulty" printing variety and undoubtedly falls into the "error" class. We believe, however, that it will be worth looking out for and may exist in more extreme forms.

New reprints: 5c Spotless Crake. A 3-kiwi reprint has been observed with the kiwi symbols opposite horizontal row 9 in the left-hand selvedge. Barcodes appear four times in the side-selvedges and are numbered 9 415599 001207. All other selvedge markings remain unchanged. The gum has been changed and is now of a far more creamy colour. The perforation gauge is unchanged and all selvedges are fully perforated.

\$5 Takahe: A 1-kiwi reprint has been sighted with the barcode once in each of the side-selvedges opposite row 3. This sheet only contains 50 stamps, of course. The barcode number is 9 415599 001351. Selvedge markings remain unchanged. Again the gum has been changed to one of more creamy appearance — perforations remain unchanged. The sheet seen by us was perforated in all

selves. The 1-kiwi mark is in the bottom selvedge under "NEW" in stamp Row 5/2.

KING EDWARD VII HEADS, MINT

Stocks seldom allow such a comprehensive listing of this relatively neglected and undervalued series of definitives as that which follows.

301(a)	½d Green (H1a). Single copy, unhinged mint	£4.25
(b)	As above, but lightly hinged	£1.75
(c)	As above. Set of three striking shades — deep green, green, yellow-green, fine ..	£7.00
302(a)	2d Mauve (H2a). Unhinged mint copy	£32.50
(b)	As above, but lightly hinged, and fine	£13.50
(c)	As above. "Mauve" is nothing more than a loose and indefinite generic term for the remarkable gamut of shades in this stamp — here we offer five magnificent contrasts , ranging from deep mauve through to pale rosy mauve, and what a pretty picture they make! Fine condition	£67.50
303(a)	3d Chestnut. Marginal unhinged copy, perf. 14 x 14½ (H3a)	£30.00
(b)	As above, but lightly hinged	£13.50
(c)	As above. Fine set of three shades as listed in C.P.	£45.00
(d)	As above. Fine, very lightly hinged copy, perf. 14 line (H3b)	£17.50
(e)	As above. Two-perf. pair (H3e), superb very lightly hinged	£175.00
304(a)	4d Red-Orange. Fine, lightly hinged copy, perf. 14 x 14¼ (H4a)	£16.00
(b)	As above. Only one shade listed, but we can do two — one the standard red-orange, the other a distinctive bright orange. The fine pair	£32.50
(c)	As above. Marginal copy, perf. 14 line (H4b), unhinged	£32.50
(d)	As above, but lightly hinged	£16.00
(e)	As above. Set of two, in the same contrasting shades as lot 304(b) above ..	£32.50
305(a)	4d Yellow (H4d). Unhinged copy	£21.75
(b)	As above, but lightly hinged	£10.00
(c)	As above. Regret no ochre-yellows available, but we have two brilliant shades of deep yellow and bright yellow — the written description doesn't begin to do them justice. Fine	£22.50
306(a)	5d Brown. Lightly hinged copy, perf. 14 line (H5a)	£11.00

(b)	As above. The two listed shades, deep brown and deep red-brown, superb ...	£24.00
(c)	As above. Red-brown block of four. All stamps lightly hinged, but very fine .	£45.00
(d)	As above. Fine lightly hinged copy, perf. 14 x 14½ (H5b)	£8.75
(e)	As above. Set of two, in the listed shades. Fine	£20.00
(f)	As above. Single copy, perf. 14 x 13½ (H5c). Light hinge	£8.75
(g)	As above. Superb set of two listed shades	£20.00
(h)	As above. Two-perf. pair (H5d) in deep brown, very lightly hinged and superfine	£37.50
307(a)	6d Carmine. lightly hinged copy, perf. 14 line (H6a)	£24.00
(b)	As above, but excellent shades of carmine and deep carmine. The two	£50.00
(c)	As above. Perfectly centred block of four. Minor gummed side imperfections, but facially superb	£52.50
(d)	As above. Lightly hinged copy, perf. 14 x 14½ (H6b)	£15.00
(e)	As above. The two listed shades, fine	£32.50
(f)	As above. Very fine lightly hinged copy in the scarce perf. 14 x 13½ (H6c) ..	£37.50
(g)	As above. Exceptional two-perf. pair in carmine (H6e). Merest trace of a hinge, and wonderfully fresh	£200.00
(h)	As above. Another two-perf. pair, not quite up to the standard of the previous pair (more extensive hingeing), but still a fine example, and showing massive lateral stepping	£125.00
308(a)	8d Indigo-Blue. Perf. 14 x 14½ copy (H7b), fine lightly hinged	£6.50
(b)	As above. Three super shades, including the listed extremes plus an intermediate. Fine	£25.00
(c)	As above. Lightly hinged copy, perf. 14 x 13½ (H7c) in deep bright blue ..	£10.00
(d)	As above. Superb two-perf. pair (H7d) in indigo-blue or deep bright blue. So lightly hinged it scarcely matters. Each	£40.00
(e)	As above. Marginal unhinged copy on 'Pictorial' paper, with wmk. sideways and perf. 14 line (H7e)	£30.00
(f)	As above. The same issue, but fine lightly hinged	£13.00
309(a)	1/- Orange Vermilion. Very fine lightly hinged copy, perf. 14 line (H8a) ..	£32.50
(b)	As above. Superfine example, perf. 14 x 14½ (H8b)	£30.00

- (c) **As above.** Fine set of two in outstanding shades of orange-vermilion and vermilion £62.50

TWO VERY UNUSUAL LARGE PIECES

- 310 1d Dominion.** Block of 48 (24 x 2), comprised of the top two rows of a sheet complete with all selvages, on Cowan paper with reversed watermark (J7a), and with sheet serial no. N546487. A little negligible gum toning affecting six stamps, otherwise absolutely pristine fresh, and completely unhinged mint. Cat. \$ 1440 as single stamps £325.00

- 311 1d Map Stamp.** A complete sheet of 120 (sheet serial no. 155050) from the scarce Cowan unsurfaced paper issue (S16c) — incidentally, the same paper as that of the contemporary King George V recess-printed issues. The top half-inch or so of the top selvage crumpled or frayed in places; from that point downwards, the sheet is in brilliant condition. In view of the interesting incidence and relationship of numerous flaws to those on the earlier Jones paper issue (see N.Z. Handbook, Vol. 4, pp 201–203), this sheet is of major philatelic interest, quite apart from its intrinsic appeal and rarity. The only sheet we have seen. Stamps alone Cat. \$ 7200 (S.G. £3240 as mounted mint!) £825.00

312 (NOT ONLY) FOR POSTAL HISTORY BUFFS!

We have available one pair of Volumes 3 and 7 of "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand", both devoted entirely to N.Z. postal history. A rare opportunity for someone — especially when there are serious rumblings about the imposition of Value Added Tax on books (which would mean an immediate increase of 17½% in the price). The two postal history volumes (Vol. 3 very fine, Vol. 7 as new), post paid £320.00

K.G.V RECESS-PRINTS (Contd.)

- 313(a) 4d Violet (Pl.20).** Superfine mint block of four, perf. 14 x 13½ (K5d), in bright violet. Upper pair only very lightly hinged £30.00
- (b) **As above.** Similarly fine block in a startlingly contrasting dull violet — most unusually for this shade showing very little plate wear indeed £32.50
- (c) **As above.** Another block in bright violet, unworn, but perf. 14 x 14½ (K5e). Again finest mint (2LH/2UH) £37.50
- (d) **As above.** Two-perf. pair (K5f) in bright violet, brilliant unhinged mint £52.50
- (e) **As above,** but very light hinge £25.00
- (f) **As above.** Two-perf. block of four, one stamp very lightly hinged, otherwise fresh as the day it was issued £75.00

- (g) **As above.** Major error, vertical pair, upper stamp imperf., lower stamp imperf. at top, perf. 14 x 13½ sides and bottom (K5dZ). Very fine mint example of this rarity (dull violet shade, very worn plate) £395.00

- 314(a) 4d Deep Purple (Pl.44).** Top marginal block of four, perf. 14 x 14½ (K5g). Presence of top selvage alone proves these are plate 44 prints — since plate 20 stamps in this perf. exist only from the lower six rows of sheets — but all stamps also show clear retouching of the shading in the star at bottom right, a characteristic of plate 44. The block, perfect unhinged mint £37.50
- (b) As above.** Superb mint block of four (1LH/3UH), the lower pair being the listed R10/8 and R10/9 re-entries £45.00
- (c) As above.** Plate 44 stamps perf. 14 x 13½ (K5h) are extremely scarce mint — no block available, but we can do a single copy, perfect unhinged £32.50
- 315(a) 4½d Deep Green.** Lovely mint block of four, perf. 14 x 14½ (K6b) £52.50
- (b) As above.** Another block, appearance just as fine, but two stamps with light crease, invisible on face £35.00
- (c) As above.** Two-perf. pair (K6c), finest mint £27.50
- 316(a) 5d Blue.** Magnificent set of the three listed shades — blue, pale ultramarine, and steel blue — all perf. 14 x 13½ (K7a). The first two unhinged, the 'steel' with almost imperceptible mount. The 5d shade reference set £27.50
- (b) As above.** Bottom marginal block of four in pale ultramarine. Lightest possible hinge on upper pair only £42.50
- (c) As above.** Left selvage block in steel blue, unhinged and immaculate £55.00
- (d) As above.** Shades set of three, as lot 320(a) above, but stamps perf. 14 x 14½ (K7b). Fabulous contrasts, and fine mint £27.50
- (e) As above.** Superfine mint block in blue (2LH/2UH), scarcer in this perf. ... £62.50
- (f) As above.** Brilliant unhinged mint block in pale ultramarine £55.00
- (g) As above.** Two-perf. pair (K7c). Some dulling of the highly glossy gum due to light adhesions, but facially superb £20.00
- 317(a) 6d Carmine.** Finest mint block of four, perf. 14 x 13½ (K8a), in deep carmine or carmine. Each block £32.50
- (b) As above.** Left marginal block in deep carmine — combination of selvage watermark and brownish gum proves it to be from an early sheet perf. 14 x 13½ throughout. Unhinged and quite superb £50.00
- (c) As above.** Unhinged mint block, perf. 14 x 14½ (K8b) in carmine £30.00
- (d) As above.** Finest mint block (2LH/2UH) in a deep rich shade £32.50
- (e) As above.** Another perf. 14 x 14½ block, this one in the definitely pale carmine characteristic of the later, esparto paper printings. Finest mint (2LH/2UH) £35.00
- (f) As above.** Marginal two-perf. pair (K8c), light hinge in selvage only, stamps unhinged £85.00

(g)	As above. Unhinged mint block of four on 'Pictorial' paper, perf. 14 line (K8d)	£37.50
(h)	As above. Another K8d block, but showing only a trace of watermark on the upper pair. The disposition of the watermarks on the lower pair demonstrates clearly just how difficult it is to find a true no watermark variety. The block (1LH/3UH)	£34.50
318(a)	7½d Deep Red Brown. Superb unhinged mint block of four, perf. 14 x 13¼ (K9a)	£52.50
(b)	As above. Another fine block (2LH/2UH) in a notably paler shade than the previous item	£39.50
(c)	As above. Superfine mint block (1LH/3UH), perf. 14 x 14¼ (K9b)	£75.00
(d)	As above. Two-perf. pair, lightly hinged and very fine mint	£32.50
319(a)	8d Indigo-Blue. Plate block of four (pl. no. 39), full corner selvedge. Mint unhinged	£130.00
(b)	As above. Top marginal block of four, perf. 14 x 13¼ (K10a), again unhinged mint and superb	£55.00
(c)	As above. Corner block of four, perf. 14 x 14¼ (K10b), also mint unhinged ..	£62.50
(d)	As above. Two-perf. pair (K10c). Finest mint, very lightly hinged	£22.00
(e)	As above. Two-perf. block of four, centred a little to the right, but extremely lightly hinged, fine and fresh	£40.00
320(a)	8d Red-Brown (K10d). Set of two, fine mint, showing to perfection the listed shades of red-chocolate and red-brown	£22.50
(b)	As above. Glorious mint block of four in red-brown (blocks are notably uncommon in this issue)	£77.50
(c)	As above. Red-chocolate block (1LH/3UH), minute gum tone on one stamp does not detract	£75.00
321(a)	9d Sage Green. Another value where mint blocks are difficult to come by, so the following represent riches indeed:	
(i)	Block in pale sage, perf. 14 x 13¼ (K11a). Superfine (2LH/2UH)	£75.00
(ii)	K11a block in an even paler sage, unhinged mint	£97.50
(iii)	K11a block, paler still, and notably bright. Superfine (2LH/2UH) ...	£75.00
(iv)	K11a top marginal block in yellow-olive , mint unhinged	£120.00
(v)	Sage-green block, perf. 14 x 14¼ (K11b), mint unhinged	£112.50
(vi)	Two-perf. block (K11c), showing very pronounced lateral stepping between the upper and lower pairs. Very lightly hinged	£120.00
(b)	As above. Two-perf. pair, fine lightly hinged	£55.00
(c)	As above. Another two-perf. pair, unhinged mint, but minor gum tones ..	£27.50

322(a)	1/- Vermilion. Beautiful block of four (2LH/2UH), perf. 14 x 13¼, (K12a) in orange-vermilion	£55.00
(b)	As above. Similar block, but perf. 14 x 14¼ (K12b)	£40.00
(c)	As above. Superb pair only, but in the most gorgeous shade of deep, deep vermilion we have seen	£25.00
(d)	As above. Top marginal block in pale salmon , mint unhinged	£110.00
(e)	As above. Plate block of four (plate no. 41), full top selvage, but no side selvage. Set alongside the range of normal shades, one could be teased into believing it is the rare orange-brown, but alas it's merely a deep orange-vermilion. The plate block, superfine mint	£135.00
(f)	As above. Two-perf. pair (K12c) in vermilion, finest mint	£55.00
(g)	As above. Similarly fine two-perf. pair in orange-vermilion	£48.00

1988 – 1993 BIRD DEFINITIVES

323(a)	5c Spotless Crake (PC20a). Original imprint block of six stamps	70p
(b)	As above. Imprint block of six, with 1-kiwi or 2-kiwi reprint markings, each ..	70p
(c)	As above. 3-kiwi imprint block of six	60p
324(a)	10c Banded Dotterel (PC11a). Original imprint block of six stamps	90p
(b)	As above. 1-kiwi imprint block of six	60p
(c)	As above. 1-kiwi sheets of this 10c value included bar-code markings along-side either end of rows 4 and 7. These two blocks (eight stamps each block) include all four bar-code markings	£1.60
325(a)	20c Yellowhead (PC12a). Original imprint block of six stamps	£2.00
(b)	As above. 1-kiwi imprint block of six	£2.00
(c)	As above. 2-kiwi imprint block of six	£1.35
(d)	As above. Two bar-code blocks (eight stamps per block)	£3.00
326(a)	30c Silvereye (PC13a). Original imprint block of six stamps	£2.75
(b)	As above. 1-kiwi imprint block of six	£2.75
(c)	As above. 2-kiwi imprint block of six	£1.75
327(a)	40c Brown Kiwi (PC14a). 2-kiwi or 3-kiwi imprint block of six, each	£3.75
(b)	As above. 4-kiwi, 5-kiwi, 6-kiwi, 7-kiwi imprint block of nine stamps, each ..	£4.75
(c)	As above. 8-kiwi imprint block of nine stamps	£3.75
328(a)	45c Rock Wren (PC21a). Original imprint block of six stamps	£4.25
(b)	As above. 1-kiwi imprint block of six	£4.25
(c)	As above. 2-kiwi imprint block of six	£3.00
(d)	As above. Two bar-code blocks (eight stamps per block)	£6.75

(to be concluded)