

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN

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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

1960 Pictorials – An Unsolved Mystery. All values to 8d in the set as originally issued (i.e. excluding the 2½d, 5d and 7d, which were later additions) were printed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. Ltd. It has for long been established beyond reasonable doubt – I'd go further, and say beyond any doubt – that in at least three instances, the printers used two different plates, in each case identified by the same plate number. These proven cases occurred in the 2d (two green plates numbered 1), 3d (two blue plates numbered 1), and the 4d (two blue plates numbered 1). In all three cases, the evidence was clear, and was to be found in the issued sheets – the presence (or absence) of various flaws and/or retouches, together with other characteristics, all of which when considered in combination preclude any explanation other than the use of different plates.

The question is why? And a satisfactory answer to that question is not easy to arrive at, particularly since the printers, when approached many years ago on the subject, flatly denied that they had ever used different plates with the same identifying number! And here any clues afforded by the issued material are at best confusing, and at worst downright contradictory. Confusing since they offer no evidence (at least none that I know of) that two **complete** sets of identically numbered plates were made and used simultaneously, for example to increase production capacity. Only the three individual instances – i.e. for one colour out of the four required in each case – are known. Contradictory, since a solution which seems promising and logical for one case doesn't hold water when applied to another. For instance, in a brief reference to the 4d in last month's Bulletin offers, I mentioned that since no blue plate numbered 2 was ever used in the printing of this value (whereas a blue plate numbered 3 **was** used), a reasonable conclusion might be that a simple error had resulted in two blue plates numbered 1. That's fine, looking at the 4d in isolation. But it doesn't hold good for either the 2d or the 3d, where relevant plates numbered 2 **were** produced and used. However, in both cases, the use of these plates numbered 2 was apparently very restricted (in the 2d, to the combination 2222, and in the 3d, to 2112, which are considerably scarcer than any of the other 2d and 3d plate blocks). Significant, or not? Also it may be significant – or alternatively just coincidence – that all three cases of 'duplicate' plate numbers involve the main (background) colour of the stamps concerned.

Suspicion of the use of two plates with the same number, certainly in the case of the 2d, arose very soon indeed after it was issued on 11th July 1960. The first suggestion appeared in the C.P. Newsletter of September that year, so both the green plates numbered 1 must have been in use before any of the stamps were even issued.

As an aside to the 'duplicate' plates question, it's clear from existing plate number combinations that in at least some instances it was not De La Rue's practice simply to discard a particular plate when another one was made; sometimes they evidently maintained more than one plate in re-usable condition. There are several examples indicating this fact. For instance, in the 2d, the existence of plate numbers 1111, 2212 and 2251 suggests that black plate no. 1 (represented by the final digit in each combination) was used **both before and after** black plate no. 2; similarly, in the 3d, plates 2125, 2126 and 3335 suggests that blue plate 5 was used **both before and after** blue plate 6. All of which may lead somewhere or nowhere in the quest for an explanation of the duplicated plate numbers mystery, but it's all interesting food for thought and study, if anyone cares to take it up!

\$1 'Round Kiwi' in Blue (issued 9/6/93). Apart from the change of colour, this blue 'Kiwi' is very similar to its predecessor printed in red. There are, however, a couple of noteworthy differences:

- (1) The addition of barcodes (9 41599 032133) which appear in black twice on each sheet of 24, in the right selvedge alongside rows 2 and 3.
- (2) A new-style sheet value marking reading **VALUE \$24.00/24 STAMPS @ \$1.00** in two lines, appears in the right selvedge alongside row 1, but it is placed considerably lower (about 14mm) than in the 'red' issue. As before, the value marking is printed separately from the stamps, by a different process, and it is now in black, not in the same colour as the stamps as previously.

We have noted a number of extraneous spots of colour and other flaws – all quite minor – some of which are at least semi-constant. In one sheet seen, the bottom row of stamps (and the imprint markings below) showed extensive inking flaws. Another strip, also from the bottom of a sheet, had an interesting partial impression of the designs, inverted-and- reversed, on the printed side of the paper.

While there have been numerous N.Z. postage stamps in the past re-issued in **one** change of colour, there has been just one precedent for this \$1, where the colour has been altered **twice**. Can you think which it is ? (Shades don't count!)

NEW ISSUES AND VARIETIES

From C.P. Newsletter Monthly

1993 World Wide Fund For Nature Conservation Issue (9 June 1993): *This colourful and somewhat complex issue comprises a total of nine stamps, all 45c values. First a single value featuring a Tusked Weta, which is only available in booklets of ten, not in complete sheets. These booklets exist in both Hangsell and non-Hangsell formats, with distinctive covers. The stamp was designed by Donna McKenna, Wellington, and printed by lithography by Southern Colour Print, Dunedin, perf. 13 1/4 x 13 1/2.*

Four other WWF Conservation stamps appear in two different formats: separate sheets of 100 (10 x 10) and in a se-tenant block of four (25 se-tenant blocks per sheet). The stamps depict (clock-wise in the se-tenant block): Yellow-eyed Penguin, Hector's Dolphin and N.Z. Fur Seal; Taiko, Mt. Cook Lily and Blue Duck; Kaka, Chatham Island Pigeon and Giant Weta, and Giant Snail, Rock Wren and Hamilton's Frog.

Barcodes appear four times on the margins of all five sheets (4x separate values plus the se-tenant block sheet) and are identical on all sheets: 9 415599 032102. The plate/imprint block differs both in size – block of six for the separate sheet values and block of eight for the se-tenant – and in the number of 'traffic light' colour codes: five in the separate sheets and eight in the se-tenant. These stamps were also designed by Donna McKenna of Wellington, but this time they were printed by Leigh-Mardon Pty. Ltd., Melbourne, by lithography, perf. 14 x 14 1/4.

K.G.V SURFACE PRINTS

Some attractive offers, all in mint blocks of four.

801(a)	1/2d Green. Three fine shade blocks on De La Rue paper (K13a), ranging from deep to pale	£17.50
(b)	As above. Superb unhinged block on the experimental, highly surfaced thick paper with De La Rue type watermark (K13b).....	£45.00
(c)	As above. Marginal block, stamps unhinged, on Jones paper (K13c)	£28.50
(d)	As above. Unhinged mint block on the provisional Art paper (K13d) with blue litho wmk.	£5.00
(e)	As above. Set of three fine mint blocks showing excellent colour contrasts of the 'wmk.'	£17.50
(f)	As above. Marginal block with variety Doubly Gummed (K13dW). Overlapping of the two coats of gum shows clearly in the selvage	£15.00
(g)	As above. Superfine mint block, Cowan paper perf. 14 x 15, upper pair showing the pronounced plate wear which developed in the top row of the sheet (K13eW)	£8.25
(h)	As above. Fine block (2LH/2UH), Cowan paper, perf. 14 (K13f), in yellow-green	£4.25
(i)	As above. Superb unhinged block on Cowan Reversed Wmk. paper (K13g)	£25.00
(j)	As above. Another 'Reversed Wmk.' block, but 2LH/2UH	£19.25
802	1/2d War Stamp (K14a). Two blocks, in excellent green shades	£8.50
803(a)	1d Field Marshal. Set of two blocks in fine carmine shades, Cowan paper, perf. 14 (K15a)	£8.00
(b)	As above. Fine mint block, perf. 14 x 15 (K15b), if centred to right	£4.25
(c)	As above. Unhinged mint block on Cowan Reversed Wmk. paper (K15c) in rose-carmine, claret, or deep bright carmine, each block, special price	£40.00
(d)	As above. Set of three unhinged blocks in the shades (nay, colours) mentioned above. Brilliant contrasts. At an even more special price, the three blocks	£95.00
804	1 1/2d Black, Local Plate (K16a). Unhinged marginal block in grey-black. Cat. \$40, another special offer at	£9.75
805(a)	1 1/2d Black, London Plate (K17a). Set of two fine blocks, in the listed shades of black and grey-black	£42.50
(b)	As above. Superb corner block in black, with sheet serial no. in selvage. Light hinge in selvage only	£32.50

806(a)	1½d Orange-brown. Superfine block on de La Rue paper (K17b)	£6.50
(b)	As above. Marginal block (2LH/2UH) on Cowan paper, perf. 14 (K17c)	£21.50
807(a)	2d Yellow. Superfine mint block, De La Rue paper (K18a) in orange-yellow	£19.00
(b)	As above. Another De La Rue block, this one in pale yellow, and unhinged mint. Very scarce thus	£27.50
(c)	As above. Pale dull yellow block on Jones paper (K18b). Very fine	£19.50
(d)	As above. Block on Art paper, with litho wmk. (K18c). Perfect unhinged	£27.50
(e)	As above. Superb corner block on Cowan paper, perf. 14 x 15 (K18d)	£22.50
(f)	As above. A magnificent quartet of blocks, all Cowan paper, perf. 14 (K18c), ranging from deep orange to pale yellow	£57.50
(g)	As above. Block on Cowan Reversed Wmk. paper (K18f). Finest condition (2LH/2UH)	£47.50
(h)	As above. Set of two blocks, Wiggins Teape paper, perf. 14 (K18h), in extreme shades of pale yellow and deep orange. Hard to believe these are from the same issue!	£42.50
808(a)	3d Chocolate. De La Rue Paper block (K19a) in deep chocolate	£22.50
(b)	As above. Another De La Rue block, in the much paler chocolate shade, and the low right stamp being the prominent R6/8 Flaw on Face variety (K19aZ). And the icing on the cake – the block is brilliant unhinged	£45.00
(c)	As above. Unhinged mint block, Cowan paper, perf. 14 x 15 (K19c) in red-chocolate	£30.00
(d)	As above. Lovely set of the three listed shades – chocolate (corner block), deep chocolate (marginal), and red-chocolate. All superfine	£75.00
(e)	As above. Marginal block on Cowan paper, perf. 14 (K19d) – quite an elusive issue. Superfine	£35.00
(f)	As above. Another perf. 14 block, this one including the R6/8 Face Flaw (K19dZ). Again finest condition	£52.50

1960 PICTORIALS CONTINUED

All offers are mint. Full annotation included where necessary.

809(a)	4d Puarangi (O6a). Corner block of eight, R4/11 'Kiss' flaw	£8.25
(b)	As above. Marginal block of ten, R14/9 and 15/8 'Kiss' flaws (OV6a)	£9.25
(c)	As above. Marginal block of eight, R9/9 flaw (OV6f)	£7.25

(d) As above. The same R9/9 flaw, but in marginal block of twelve (4 x 3) with clear Chambon Perf. characteristics	£13.50
(e) As above. Marginal block of eight, R6/4 flaw (OV6h)	£7.25
(f) As above. Marginal block of four, R19/8 flaw	£7.25
(g) As above. Counter coil pair varieties (OC6a and b):	
(i) Coil pair, red No. 3 offset on back	£17.50
(ii) Two coil pairs, black and red coil nos. respectively, both showing the R20/3 flaw (crooked bar to A)	£15.00
(iii) Black coil no. R20/5 flaw on green leaf variety (Vol. 6 listed)	£9.50
(iv) Same R20/5 variety, but red coil no.	£5.00
(v) Coil pair, red coil no., one stamp pale blue, the other deep blue	£3.50
(vi) Black no. coil pairs (OC6a), complete set of 23 (1-23) all with £4 sheet value marking in gutter (Cat. \$287.50). Special offer at	£52.50
(vii) Similar set of 23 coil pairs, but red coil nos. (OC6b)	£12.50
810(a) 5d Daisy (O7a). Two blocks of four, in superb purple shades (one very pale). Lovely contrasts	£2.75
(b) As above. Plate (1A) block of twelve and sheet value block of four	£9.00
(c) As above. Marginal block of ten, R9/5 retouch (OV7b)	£9.00
(d) As above. Corner block of twelve, missing perf. pins in the top two rows	£8.50
(e) As above. Block of four stamps with minor shift of black to left. Result – freakish flowers!	£12.50
(f) As above. Two "Crazy Daisy" varieties, one with yellow shifted upwards (yellow hardly shows on the flowers at all), the other shifted downwards. Nice pair!	£8.50
811(a) 6d Clematis (O8a). Two blocks of four, fine green shades	£2.75
(b) As above. Plate (111) block of eight stamps	£5.75
(c) As above. Block of six stamps, Chambon perf. characteristics	£6.50
(d) As above. Block of four, including R8/7 (OV8a) retouch around PIK	£13.75
(e) As above. Small shift of olive to the right – the end result leaves you cross-eyed!	£17.50
(f) As above. Two coil pairs, coil nos. "brown and orange" respectively	£6.00
(g) As above. Complete set of 23 coil pairs (nos. 1-23). Cat. \$172.50	£42.50
812(a) 6d Chalky Paper (O8b). Marginal block of four	£1.50
(b) As above. Plate (111) block of eight and sheet value block of four	£9.00
(c) As above. Positional block of eighteen (yes, 18) with R8/7 retouch (OV8b)	£20.00

- (d) **As above.** Two chalky paper coil pairs (OC8aZ), matched coil nos. one with sheet value (£6) marking, the other without..... **£18.00**

OFFER OF THE MONTH

- 813 Q.E. Definitives.** The most comprehensive set we (or, we believe anyone else) have ever offered. Comprises the original 1/2d – 10/-, **Including both dies of the 1/-** and both papers of the 1/9d; the redrawn 1d – 8d, including all paper varieties; the 2d on 1 1/2d provisionals **including the error N41a**; the 2 1/2d on 3d provisionals including a se-tenant pair with wide and narrow settings; and the Official issues 1d – 3/- (with provisionals) complete on both papers, and **Including a copy of the major 4d error Printed on the Gummed Side (NO25aZ)**. Marvellous set of 51 + 1 pair, all superb unhinged mint. Cat. a massive \$1200+, extra special offer this month only at less than 1/2 Cat. at (registered post paid)..... **£260.00**

N.Z. DECIMAL BOOKLETS BONANZA

As comprehensive a listing as we have ever been able to compile. Inevitably there are some gaps, and virtually all except the current issues are becoming ever more difficult to replace in stock. Increasing interest in booklets, coupled with the short life of many issues (particularly in the last few years) make it certain that this trend will continue. Stocks of many items offered are very strictly limited, so order early.

C.P. Cat. No.

W9a(a)	1967 50c, no selvedge markings	£10.00
W9a(b)	Do., but panes with 'XA' or 'XB' on selvedge, each	£24.00
W10a	1970 75c, watermarked issue	£17.50
W10b	1974 75c as above, but stamps unwatermarked	£12.50
W11a	1977 \$1.00 (P12b x 10), selvedge at left or right, each	£6.50
W12a	1977 80c (PA8b x 10), selvedge at left or right, each	£4.00
W13a(Z)	1978 \$1.00 (PA10a x 10), selvedge at left	£10.00
W14a	1978 \$1.20 (PA12a x 10), selvedge at left or right, each	£6.50
W15a	1980 \$1.40 (PA14 x 10), selvedge at left or right, each	£6.50
W15b	1980 \$1.54 (PA14a x 10), selvedge at left or right, each	£6.50
W16a	1980 \$2.00 (PA15a x 10), selvedge at left or right, each	£6.50
W16b	1980 \$2.20 (PA15a x 10), selvedge at left or right, each	£6.50
W17a	1982 \$2.40 (PA35a x 10), selvedge at left or right, each	£6.50

W17b	1982 \$2.64 (PA35a x 10), selvedge at right	£6.50
W18b	1985 \$2.64 (PA35b x 10), selvedge at left or right, each	£8.50
W19a	1985 \$2.50 (PB12a x 10), selvedge at left or right, each	£6.50
W19b	1985 \$2.75 PB12a x 10), selvedge at left or right, each	£6.50
W20a	1986 \$3.00 (PC1a x 10)	£8.50
W21a	1987 \$4.00 (PC2a x 10), 'Ahuriri Valley' cover	£8.50
W21b	1987 \$4.40 (PC2a x 10), 'Totaranui Beach' cover	£8.50
W22a	1987 (June) \$4.00 (PC2a x 10), 'Ahuriri Valley' cover, new N.Z. Post logo	£8.50
W23a	1987 (Nov.) \$4.00 (PC2a x 10), 'Wellington by Night' cover	£8.50
W23a(X)	As above, but se-tenant pair of booklets with complete 4-kiwi reprint marking on panes	£30.00
W23b	1987 \$4.40 (PC2a x 10). 'Katiki Point' cover. Very scarce (withdrawn after only three weeks on issue)	£20.00
W23b(Z)	As above, but with 2-kiwi reprint marking on pane	£30.00
W24a	1988 \$2.00 'Personal Messages'	£4.00
W25a	1988 \$7.00 'fastPost' (PC17a x 10), selvedge at left or right, each	£8.50
W25a(Z)	As above, but with 1-kiwi reprint marking on left selvedge of pane	£10.50
W26a	1988 \$3.50 Christmas (SC29a x 10), selvedge at top or bottom, each	£4.00
W27a	1988 \$6.00 (PD6a x 6)	£13.50
W28a	1988 \$4.00 (PC14a x 10), 'Mt. Cook' cover, selvedge at left or right, each	£5.00
W28a(Z)	As above, but with coloured plate dots (no kiwis) on left selvedge of pane	£8.50
W28a(X)	As above, but with 2-kiwi reprint marking on left selvedge of pane	£8.50
W28a(W)	As above, but with 3-kiwi reprint marking	£8.50
W28a(V)	As above, but with 5-kiwi reprint marking	£8.50
W28a(U)	As above, but with 6-kiwi reprint marking	£8.50
W29a	1989 \$3.50 Christmas (SC30a x 10), selvedge at top or bottom, each	£4.00
W30a	1990 \$4.00 (PC14b mini sheet) 'Foodtown' pack	£15.00
W30a(Z)	As above, but reprint without 'Foodtown' logo	£7.50

W31a	1990 \$4.00 (PC14a x 10), black 'Hang-Sell' cover, selvedge at left	£5.00
W31a(Z)	As above, but with 6-kiwi reprint marking on pane selvedge	£8.50
W31a(Y)	As above, but with 7-kiwi reprint marking	£8.50
W31a(X)	As above, but se-tenant pair of booklets with complete 8-kiwi reprint marking on pane selvedges	£15.00
W32a	1991 \$2.00 'Thinking of You' (non 'Hang-Sell' cover)	£3.50
W33a	1991 \$2.00 'Happy Birthday' (non 'Hang-Sell' cover)	£3.50
W34a	1991 \$4.00 (PC21a x 10), blue 'Hang-Sell' cover, selvedge at left	£5.00
W34a	As above, but with coloured plate dots in pane selvedge	£6.50
W35a	1991 \$2.25 'Thinking of You' ('Hang-Sell' cover)	£2.25
W36a	1991 \$2.25 'Happy Birthday' ('Hang-Sell' cover)	£2.25
W37a	1991 \$4.50 (PC21a x 10), red 'Hang-Sell' cover, 'I' on back, selvedge at bottom .	£6.50
W37a	As above, but reprint with 'II' on back cover, selvedge at top or bottom, each	£5.00
W37b	As above, but red non 'Hang-Sell' cover, 'I' on back, selvedge at bottom	£6.50
W37b(Z)	As above, but reprint with 'II' on back cover, selvedge at top	£5.00
W38a	1992 \$4.00 (PC18a x 5) Trial Issue, 'fastPost' booklet, blue non 'Hang-Sell' cover, no barcode or Roman numeral on back. Selvedge at top or bottom, each	£6.50
W38b	1992 \$8.00 (PC18a x 10) Trial Issue 'fastPost' booklet, cover as above. Selvedge at bottom	£15.00
W38b(Z)	1992 \$8.00 (PC18a x 10) Regular Issue 'fastPost' booklet. Blue cover as above, but now with 'I' and barcode on back. Selvedge at top or bottom, each	£7.50
W39a	1992 \$4.50 (45c 'Panoramic' x 10), red 'Hang-Sell' cover, 'I' on back, selvedge at left	£5.00
	As above, but reprint with 'II' on back cover	£4.00
W39b	As above, but red non-'Hang-Sell' cover, 'I' on back, selvedge at left or right, each	£5.00
	As above, but reprint with 'II' on back cover, selvedge at left	£4.00
	1993 \$8.00 (80c NZ Falcon x 10) 'fastPost' booklet. Cover similar to previous item, but printed info on back cover re-arranged. Selvedge at top or bottom, each	£6.50
	1993 \$4.50 (45c Tusked Weta x 10) 'Conservation' booklet, red non 'Hang-Sell' cover, selvedge at left	£4.00
	As above, but red 'Hang-Sell' cover, selvedge at left	£4.00